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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL Pages 16-18

ABOVE: This year, individual poppies are displayed throughout Cowbridge High Street – and photographer GLYN EVANS captured images of 39 of them to create this remarkable collage – each one representing a Cowbridge or Llanblethian man who died in conflict.

HOUSE PLOT: Couple get £40K shock demand from council

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COUPLE looking to build their own home in the Vale, after buying a plot of land have been hit with a shock £40,000 bill from the Vale Council.

Chris and Wendy Mumford recently bought a plot of land in Aberthin, outside Cowbridge, to build a three-bedroomed house.

However, the Vale Council have demanded the £40,000 as a section 106 payment – and the couple fear will threaten the viability of the project.

Under section 106, developers are asked for a sum that can then be spent on improving local infrastructure, for instance, or sometimes to contribute to extra education costs when a development means that a local school has an influx of new children.

Mr and Mrs Mumford contacted Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, about their situation – only to be told that she could not intervene, since it was a private matter between them and the Vale Council.

Now, the Mumfords' case has been taken up by the South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, who last month wrote to the Vale Council to raise these concerns.

He also called on the Welsh Government to address the anomaly in the system.

Chris Mumford said, "We are shocked at the Welsh Government's policy to allow local authorities to impose S106 requests on self-builders in Wales, making them unviable.

"For a small three bedroomed house, we are being asked to pay over £40k as a S106 contribution, and this stealth tax will do nothing to increase the availability of affordable housing in Wales."

Andrew RT Davies said, "Section 106 contributions were always intended for large scale developments, and it is not right that they should put a self-build project like this in jeopardy.

"Chris and Wendy Mumford have shown real initiative in building their own home – and together the Labour Vale Council and Welsh Government have made things very difficult for them."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Festive fashion to raise funds

THE Chamber of Trade and Cowbridge Fashion Week have launched a campaign to raise funds to support the annual Reindeer Parade and to bring brighter and better Christmas lights to the town.

Leading the way, were the team behind Cowbridge Fashion Week, which over the last 10 years, has raised over £150,000 for charities through its successful fashion lunches.

In May this year, it celebrated another triumphant lunch at The Bear Hotel where the proceeds raised were divided between two very deserving charities, Ty Hafan and Coleg Elidyr.

However, in October, yet another lunch was held – but with a different purpose.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

- Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME'

TO all the people who so kindly helped me when I fell in St Athan village on August 31, a huge 'thank you' for all that you did for me.

I don't know everyone's names, but you know who you are: especially Scott, Chelsea, Bernice and Lucy. I couldn't have got through the three hours of waiting for an ambulance without you all.

I had an operation for a broken hip, but am now recovering at home.

With all that goes on in this world, it is really reassuring that there are such kind people out there.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Carole Stuart-Torrie,
Gileston.

Everybody needs good neighbours

VISITS to hospital are necessary, but also challenging; more so when you are elderly and your mobility is poor and you are nervous about your health difficulties.

This is where our volunteers make such a big difference. So if you enjoy driving, and have some time to spare, we would love to hear from you.

You would not be asked to do more than you wanted and would be paid your petrol expenses. Can you imagine how frustrating it is for an elderly person who wants to do some Christmas shopping and needs a little support and encouragement?

Volunteer shoppers can make this difference, whether it is food shopping, or the occasional special shop.

If you are interested, please contact Good Neighbours in the western Vale on 01446 795549. For the eastern Vale, it is 01446 747654.

Bridget Palmer,
Good Neighbours Volunteer Coordinator, Llantwit Major.

Help for the aged

AGE CYMRU offers free, confidential, impartial and bilingual expert advice service for over-50s in Wales.

If your readers want to talk to one of our expert advisers in Welsh or English, call us on 08000 223 444 between 9am and 5pm, from Monday to Friday, or they can send an email to *advice@agecymru.org.uk*.

Ian Thomas,
Chief Executive, Age Cymru.

VOICES FROM THE SOMME...

THIS evening (Thursday, November 10), at Penarth Local History Society, Dr Jonathan Hicks will give a talk on 'The Voices from Mametz Wood, The Somme 1916' at 7.30pm, in All Saints' Lesser Hall, Penarth. Entry is £2; everyone welcome.

Music at lunchtime

ON Monday, November 14, the Eilean String Quartet will be at All Saints' Church, Penarth, from1pm.

Entrance is free (although donations towards the organ restoration fund will be gratefully received). Bring your lunch; tea and coffee provided.

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'The generous pay-offs mean cuts elsewhere'

THE GEM'S article, headed *council 'exit packages' total almost £1.3 million*, on November 3, identifies money paid out during the last Vale financial year, including one payment of £98,469.

So, what about the other years that this Llantwit/Labour alliance has been in control?

We know very little about the detail, but what we do know is that since they came to power in May 2012, they have raised council tax by 18 per cent.

In their first four years, 250 exit packages were agreed at a cost of £4,163,981, i.e. an average of £16,656 each, reducing employee levels from 40 per cent to 31 per cent of expenditure. Curiously, during that same time the number of staff paid more than £60,000 a year has risen from 53 to 63.

Twenty-five of those staff with salaries above £40,000 were awarded exit packages totalling £1,519,185, an average of £60,767 each.

Retiring employees, or those who are, unfortunately, being made redundant, should receive payments as required by law, or in accordance with their pension arrangements.

However, the council have a discretionary option which allows them to pay an additional amount of up to £30,000; each decision is taken at a confidential committee meeting, and the total each year is not available for public scrutiny.

Money is short for local councils and difficult decisions are being made to reduce expenditure – but it is disappointing that libraries are being severely cut back and our street lights are being extinguished, when departing senior managers are still being paid generous amounts of discretionary compensation.

Dennis Harkus,
FocusBARRY supporter.

'Will 'new route lead to more congestion at Dinas Powys?'

THE claim from the Vale Council that the new entrance being constructed from the A4055 Barry Road to replace the old bridge to Cross Common is 'a new route through Dinas Powys' is spurious to say the least.

It is a combination of residential streets that return to the A4055 Cardiff Road at the Murch Road traffic lights. The only thing that made it a route is the fact that the Penarth bus that has been using the (totally unsuitable) bridge for years. It's nearly a quarter of a mile longer than staying on the A4055.

Will we next hear the Vale Council claim this is their alternative to the Dinas Powys by-pass, which now has the support of the Welsh Government's Secretary of State for Finance and Infrastructure, Ken Skates?

Of course, residents are pleased the old bridge is to be done away with. After all, the Vale's own surveyor condemned it three years ago. That's when the Assembly Government made the grant of £500,000 to the council to replace the bridge.

But some residents have complained they were not informed before work on the planned 16-week project began. The first they knew was when temporary traffic lights were installed and trees were felled very early one morning.

The truth is the council dragged its feet until a developer needed better access for the 50 houses to be built on the Barry side of Cross Common Road.

Even now, there's been no discussion about replacing the long-established, on-street parking outside four houses in Cross Common Road. Yet the developer is required to supply a car park for residents of the flats to be built on the corner opposite.

There's been concern expressed that once the bridge is closed and removed the knock-on effect will be further congestion at the junction of Wellwood Drive and Hebron Hall.

Coun Vince Driscoll,
Powys Community Council.

Reader puts his thoughts to verse on remembrance day

AS the wind blows through the poppy leaves, and
a quiet breeze blows through the trees,
We remember the men who went to war,
who packed up their cases and walked through their door.
They left their homes and families too,
and the numbers that returned were only few.
They fought with their enemy until death was near
and a lot of them died with their hearts full of fear.
They had laid down their lives that we may have peace,
and live our lives in a golden fleece.
So we must never forget the days of war,
and the men that died to change the law.
We must think of the past as part of our lives,
and remembrance day, and those that died.

Russell Spencer Downe.

Letter left foul taste in mouth

FOLLOWING Mr Honychurch's letter in The GEM (November 3), I would like to make it absolutely clear that I have not said, or suggested, that dogs should be excluded from open fields.

My issue with dog fouling is where it takes place in children's playgrounds and on sports pitches.

I am pleased to hear that Mr Honychurch clears up after his dog. However, many dog owners do not. The health reasons for preventing dog fouling on sports pitches are exactly the same as for children's playgrounds.

It seems illogical to me that he seems prepared to accept one, but not the other.

Coun Adam Riley,
Independent, Vale Council, Rhoose ward.

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY

I WOULD like to thank The GEM and A Flinn for bringing to attention the danger of being bitten when delivering literature, which is part of my work.

I myself have been a victim of dog bites on several occasions and have had to receive hospital treatment because of the severity of the damage caused to my hand, I also lost fingernails, as described in last week's letter.

Although it is an occupational hazard (and as a dog lover, I understand the dog is guarding its territory), those few simple steps as laid out in A Flinn's letter are a perfect way of avoiding the dog causing injury to someone posting mail:

1. A warning notice, such as 'Beware of the Dog.
2. A mail guard attached to the inside of the door.
3. A letterbox attached to the wall beside the front door.

I know these simple steps do work; for instance, seeing a warning sign makes you more cautious when approaching the property – as well as posting literature through the letterbox.

Coming up to Christmas, there is a sharp increase in people coming to residents' doors with deliveries. Please consider us!

L Coulthard,
Barry.

Cowbridge will remember them

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council would like to remind the communities of Cowbridge and surrounding villages of the act of Remembrance service and wreath laying ceremony, assembling at 10.45am outside the Town Hall at the War Memorial on Sunday, November 13.

Wreaths will be laid by a large number of local organisations as well as representatives of the Royal British Legion and Armed Services, immediately following a short service at the War Memorial.

This will be followed by a parade to the Holy Cross Church for an ecumenical Act of Remembrance Service.

A road closure will be in effect from 10.45am to 11.15am and 12 noon to 12.30pm, from Eastgate junction with Druids Green, High Street to The Butts and Church Street.

The Town Council and Royal British Legion would like to encourage all members of the public to support the ceremony, and the many youth organisations that participate in remembering the fallen.

A short service and Act of Remembrance, including a minute's silence, will also take place at the Cowbridge Town War Memorial, starting at 10.55am on Friday, November 11. Anyone wishing to attend this Service should assemble at the Memorial by 10.50am.

David Morris,
Town Clerk,
Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
10 Thur	01.54	8.1	14.29	8.4
11 Fri	02.57	8.5	15.29	9.1
12 Sat	03.59	9.2	16.24	9.7
13 Sun	04.52	9.9	17.17	10.3
14 Mon	05.41	10.4	18.04	10.6
15 Tues	06.28	10.7	18.53	10.7
16 Wed	07.11	10.8	19.41	10.6
17 Thur	07.59	10.5	20.28	10.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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A Midsummer Night's Dream *(in autumn)* by Y Bont Faen pupils

LAST Friday, Y Bont Faen Primary School year 6 performed A Midsummer Night's Dream, at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff.

The school performed as part of the 'Shakespeare for Schools' charity, a nationwide festival that uses the "unique power of Shakespeare to transform lives".

At the end of the performances, all the schools involved were invited back onto the stage, to receive feedback from the founder of the festival, Chris Grace.

He thought that "it was a brilliantly performed interpretation, and all of the acting was of a consistently high standard".

A school spokesperson said: "It truly was an unforgettable performance; it's just a shame they didn't have time for an encore."

MAYOR'S CHARITY SUPPORTS LOCAL DEMENTIA CHORUS

ABOVE: The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Elizabeth George, held her monthly coffee morning last Saturday, November 5, in the council chambers. A special guest was Jackie Askey, representing the Mayor's charity, The Forget Me Not Chorus, which helps people suffering the effects of dementia, and their carers, through the medium of song.

Poppy Appeal extends thanks to traders

Costa Coffee door.

Tenovus.

IN last week's GEM the Poppy Appeal organisers thanked businesses who had made the effort to 'Paint the Town Red' in support of this year's Poppy Appeal.

Since then, more businesses have joined those who were already sporting a window display to make the impact even more stunning.

David Howell, Poppy Appeal organiser, said: "The response we have had to 'Paint the Town Red' is a wonderful example of the town pulling together to support a very worthy cause.

"Initial indications are that their support will help us achieve a good collection this year to help support our Armed Services personnel, and we are very grateful to all those who have helped us. We will keep you posted on the final outcome."

COWBRIDGE REMEMBERS!

This was the scene outside Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge on Tuesday morning, as crosses were planted in the Garden of Remembrance.

History of the hymn 'Cwm Rhondda'

THE speaker at the November meeting of the Cowbridge Pontfaen Probus Club was Derek Day, one of the club's own members.

His talk was devoted to the history of our much-loved hymn, *Cwm Rhondda*, and made all his audience realise how little we know about its only too familiar words and melody.

The original text was written in 1745 not in English, but in Welsh, by probably the most important Welsh hymn writer, William Williams, Pantycelyn.

It was published in 1762 and originally had six verses.

Although brought up as an Anglican, Williams left the established church after he was refused ordination, and for the rest of his life preached as a nonconformist.

The English translation of only three verses of the hymn by Peter Williams (no relation) was published in 1771.

Peter Williams was also well known for a popular edition of the Welsh Bible.

The tune for today's version of the hymn in this English translation was written in 1905 by John Hughes, for a Cymanfa Ganu in Hopkinstown in the Rhondda valley.

This was during the period of the Welsh religious revival and the English words were preferred. This was during the period of the Welsh religious revival, and the English words were preferred because of the large number of English-speaking immigrants who had come to live in the Rhondda.

The melody was first called simply *Rhondda*, but this had to be changed, as a hymn tune with the same name already existed.

Derek also outlined the changes in religious life in Wales over the centuries since the original words were penned.

The Welsh reformers of the 18th century, such as Howell Harries, who had done so much to advance education for the poor, had begun life as Anglicans, but were later involved in the development of the Welsh Methodist Church.

His interesting survey concluded with the disestablishment of the Church in Wales in 1924, which also saw the ending of the much-resented church tithes.

The club meets in the Bear Hotel on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining, contact the club secretary Chris Pinchbeck on 01446 773527.

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BRECON AND MONMOUTH ARE HIT, TOO

Cowbridge business rate row – market towns are the losers

by PHILIP IRWIN

AS the row over the shock proposed business rate rise in Cowbridge moves on, it has become apparent that the town has been caught up in a revaluation exercise that is hitting relatively prosperous rural towns where rents have risen in recent years.

Last week, BBC Wales news focused on Monmouth, where retailers have been hit with rises that threaten to put them out of business – although ironically the rises there are not as high as in some parts of Cowbridge.

Traders in Brecon have approached the Conservative Leader in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies AM, with similar concerns.

When the storm broke, a Welsh Government spokesman told The GEM that the revaluation exercise was not to raise extra revenue.

The amount collected would be the same, with only inflation added. He said that some businesses would go up, and some down.

It does look as if Cowbridge and similar towns are taking the 'collateral damage' of a policy that is designed to support struggling areas.

However, there is no doubt that Cowbridge retailers feel that too big a burden is being placed on them.

They are also angry that a five-week consultation exercise on the proposals was so low profile – Sally Stephenson of The Pencil case told The GEM that none of the businesses in the town had been aware of it. The consultation finished last week.

As a result, Vale AM Jane Hutt has extended the deadline until the end of this week, and it is thought that a number of businesses have been able to register their concerns.

The link is on *LGF1Consultations@wales.gsi.gov.uk*

The situation is complicated because the revaluation has been conducted by the UK Government, but the Welsh Government has the power to offer rate relief for hard-pressed businesses.

As a result the Conservatives in the Assemby are on the attack. As previously reported in The GEM, the Conservatives say that the small business rate relief scheme in England takes more businesses out of having to pay rates than in Wales – an assertion disputed by the Welsh Government.

The Conservative economy spokesman, Russell George said: "The power to set business rates is one of the most significant tools that the Welsh Government has at its disposal to support small firms.

"Business rates remain a huge financial burden for SMEs, and the recent revaluations have come as a sledgehammer blow to many rural firms – some of whom now face crippling bills.

"A tax cut for these firms would have mitigated against the impact of revaluations, and provided a much needed shot in the arm to the Welsh economy."

The Welsh Government has pointed to its £10 million transitional rate relief scheme, which would support businesses over a three-year period to help them adjust to the new rates.

Sally Stephenson told The GEM that she would qualify for so little of this fund, that it would make no difference.

She added that, even if she did receive that cash, there was no way that her business could stand a rise from just under £1,000 per annum to £5,000, when that clicked in after three years.

Another factor that will come into play, when the Welsh Government looks at how to distribute that £10 million, is that Monmouth, Brecon and other towns will be after a share.

COUNCIL SHOCK COUPLE WITH A £40K DEMAND

Andrew RT Davies with Chris and Wendy Mumford on their plot of land in Aberthin.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Davies continued: "I have, therefore, written to the council, asking them to take action on this – and I call on the Welsh Government to look again at the situation, to prevent more absurd situations like this from arising."

Mr Davies added that this system applies in Wales only, and in England, section 106 contributions can only be enforced on larger scale developments – and not self-builds.

However, a reply from the Vale Council appeared to suggest that the fee could be up for negotiation, once planning permission had been granted.

Marcus Goldsworthy, the Vale Council's Head of Planning and Regeneration said: "In January 2016, the council approved a new Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document which seeks to maximise the provision of much-needed affordable housing in the Vale.

"This guidance was prepared in line with the Welsh Government's priority, to deliver more affordable housing through the planning system, and in response to the acute need for affordable housing in the Vale.

"This policy has been developed following an assessment of the robust evidence informing the Draft Local Development Plan which demonstrates that such a requirement is viable and deliverable in the context of the rural Vale, where land and property values are highest and reflects the approach advocated by Welsh Government in national planning policy.

"Nevertheless it must be noted that there is flexibility within the policy to allow individual viability concerns to be taken into account, in the consideration of individual planning applications. However, the case in question is a current planning application and as such, it would not be appropriate to comment on it specifically."

Probus gains insight into life in the House

Alun Cairns MP (left) and Llantwit Major Probus president Charles Anderson.

THE Llantwit Major Probus Club's annual lunch was held on Friday, October 28 at St Athan Golf Club, when president John Clarke welcomed Alun Cairns, MP Secretary of State for Wales, and president of Llantwit Major Rotary, Charles Anderson with his wife Mary.

Having previously spoken to Probus, Vale MP Mr Cairns had come prepared with the notes from that occasion to hand in the hope of not repeating himself!

We were given an insight into how Parliament works, from his time as a back bench MP and now as a member of the UK Cabinet, in a most interesting and at times humorous talk.

We learnt how business is conducted in the House, without giving away any secrets, and on how his maiden speech as an MP, he rose to his feet to be greeted with cries of "stand up" from the opposition benches!

At PMQ's he was called by the Speaker, only to forget halfway through what his question was; the press reporting that it was the only time David Cameron had answered a question he hadn't been asked!

As a member of the cabinet, he is also a Privy Councillor and the title of the Rt Honourable remains for life, briefly touching on the ceremony and the role played by members of the Privy Council.

After a most informative, entertaining and non-political speech, Mr Cairns received a round of applause and answered questions from members.

He stressed how important he felt it was to attend coffee mornings, and other events in the constituency, as he picks up concerns from members of the public which otherwise would not be brought to his attention.

The president thanked the MP for giving us time in his busy schedule, for the work he does on behalf of constituents, and wished him well in his parliamentary future.

MICK MASON

A stately ride through the Vale...
See more pictures on page 29.

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Fashion Week to raise funds for parade

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Esther Hitchcock has been closely involved with Cowbridge Fashion Week since its inception, and she explained: "After many years of supporting so many deserving charities it was time to bring it closer to home.

"This lunch was held to support the town throughout the festive season. It has been commented on in previous years that the town decorations are just not up to scratch.

"As such a well known, charming town, it would be devastating to let the magic slip – so this October, we decided to support the Cowbridge Reindeer and Christmas Lights Appeal.

"As ever, the local high street pulled together to put on a spectacular show, highlighting exactly what we have to offer in this town. The support from everyone involved was fantastic and is a testament to what a lovely community we are a part of."

The chamber of trade has always paid the costs of the Reindeer Parade, and charitable collections made on the day go straight to local charities, so more vibrant Christmas in the town is, the more cash will go to charity.

Things are moving on now, and the fundraising has well and truly entered the digital age, with the recent launch of a crowd funding appeal.

If anyone would like show their support, go to the Crowdfunding page online. Any donation is gratefully received at http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/cowbridge-community-christmas-lights

Glowing report for the South Wales Police

SOUTH Wales Police has been praised in an official report by the Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

HMIC found that the force is good at understanding current and future demand; has realised the benefits of collaborative working and shared responsibility with partners; and has plans to identify gaps in the skills of officers and staff to meet the needs of the local community.

Deputy Chief Constable Matt Jukes said: "We are delighted the HMIC has recognised the way in which South Wales Police is listening and responding to the needs of our communities, meeting today's demands but also planning and building for the demands of the future.

"The report highlights our effective operational approaches to keeping people safe, ensuring we have the right people in the right places with the best technology to meet the needs of our communities.

"All of this shows our strengths but we have to stay fit for the challenges of the future and we're never complacent about the work that takes."

THE LLANFAIR PUPILS SPRING INTO ACTION TO SAVE POLLINATORS!

LLANFAIR is one of four schools in the Vale of Glamorgan which have been selected to save Britain's pollinating insects.

Llanfair pupils took their first step by planting over 400 bulbs to encourage more pollinating insects next spring.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Cheese and wine with sixth form is a great success

SIXTH form Llantwit Major Scool students who work with the local Rotary Club ran a cheese and wine evening at the Town Hall recently.

The evening was a great success with £650 raised for the three chosen charities: Born Free, Plan and Heads above the Waves.

Thank you to everyone who supported us on the night and all of the local shops who kindly donated towards the raffle.

GEMMA SATHERLEY-THOMAS

CHARITY QUIZ

MEMBERS of the Barry committee of Cancer Research UK Cymru are holding a quiz night to raise funds for cancer research on November 23, at West End Social Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry.

Doors open at 7.30pm and the quiz starts at 8pm. Entrance fee (£3) is payable at the door. All are welcome.

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MP is out of comfort zone on the dance floor

Novice Alun Cairns dancing with experienced dancer Eileen Littlejohn.

VALE MP Alun Cairns took to the dance floor in St Donat's last week to celebrate 15 years of the Cowbridge Dance School.

The school, set up by former NHS manager Alan Taylor, runs seven regular classes in locations throughout the Vale with more than 100 local people attending.

The tea dance in the Arts Centre at Atlantic College in St Donat's is one of the more popular locations for the school, with dancers flocking from Llantwit and the Western Vale.

The school teaches ballroom and sequence dancing, meaning there was no risk of Alun Cairns attempting Latin hip movements with the same panache as his erstwhile parliamentary opponent Ed Balls on *Strictly*. Mr Cairns' dancing efforts were limited to trying to hold his partner correctly and put one foot in front of the other.

Mr Cairns said, "I had little understanding of the complexity involved in ballroom dancing before now. I am in awe of the ability of the dancers to remember so many steps and execute their moves so quickly and seamlessly."

Alan Taylor said: "Teaching local people to dance is a great joy. There are so many keen learners throughout the Vale who are such fun to teach.

"The dance lessons are always a social occasion, with beginners and advanced dancers sharing tips and stories."

Mr Taylor is organising a tea dance at Penarth Pavilion on Remembrance Sunday from 2pm to 4pm for the Royal British Legion.

If you would like to attend, contact alandance@btinternet.com.

Left to right: Haydn pictured with his sisters, Moira, Dilys and Beryl, a few years ago.

The storm of war... and how it affected one Welsh soldier

by TIM CHAPMAN

IN a week when Remembrance is a central part of our lives, a woman from Barry was keen to pay tribute to her brother, who served in the Army, and to explain the sort of sacrifices his generation made for the people today.

Mrs Moira Marsh (92) told The GEM how her brother Haydn (now 95) had come to serve in the Army in the Second World War.

At the time the family lived in Abertillery.

Moira explained that in those days young people were given little choice in life.

"His life fell apart because he had to go down the Six Bells pit at the age of 14. He was a brilliant scholar, well read, loved by us all, and should have gone to university. The pit had experienced many blasts.

"He was there until the age of 17 and then he came back home one day and said 'I can't stick it any more, I'm joining the Army'."

The decision sent shockwaves through the family and their parents Elsie May and George, were devastated.

"For my mother, it seemed like the end. He left Wales and headed for Falkirk where he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

"My father was a noted opera singer, who came to Abertillery from Letterston in Pembrokeshire. While Hadyn was in Scotland he won £30 in a talent contest singing 'I walk beside you', one of my father's favourite songs."

But that carefree time in Scotland was to give way to the horrors of war when he took part in the Allied invasion of Italy.

"Haydn was shipped to Salerno and had to come off one of the launches. Half the regiment were blown to pieces.

"My brother was wounded – shot in the leg – and designated 'missing in action'. The family received a telegram which said he was 'presumed dead'. My mother collapsed – we were all around her."

But Haydn and other soldiers were up in the Italian mountains, and when word came through to Abertillery that he was still alive, there was great joy in the house.

At one stage, he feared the leg would be amputated. He later left an Italian hospital and was demobbed from his barracks in London.

He returned to Wales only to discover the young woman he loved had not waited for him.

"It broke his heart," said Moira.

He never married. After the war, Haydn was employed by Northern Aluminium Works, and moved to Barry in 1954 to work for BP. Other family members had moved to the town, including Moira, who worked at the Barry Hotel.

Haydn was presented with a gold watch by BP on May 17, 1979, to commemorate 25 years of loyal service.

He used to live not far from Moira in Barry, but last year had a fall while he was cooking.

He now lives at Orchard House care home in the town.

Moira said: "He suffered not only from what happened in the war, but after it. I love him dearly. He fought so others can live their lives today."

A NIGHTMARE! Woman is stuck in lift for hours on her birthday!

IT'S the nightmare experience! You're planning to go out for a party to celebrate your birthday and get stuck in a lift – not just for a few moments, but hours – and it happened to a Barry woman last Friday.

Frances Ashcroft, who lives in a fourth floor flat in the 'Glan y Mor' block on the Waterfront hurried home after an afternoon shopping trip.

She was looking forward to celebrating her 67th birthday with friends, first for a few drinks at Wetherspoons in Barry at 7pm, and then at Romeos by the Sea Restaurant in Penarth at 8.30pm.

"I got back at 5.05pm on Friday evening and got into the lift at Glan y Mor. I pressed number 4 – off it went, and then it stopped."

Nothing was happening, so Frances pushed 4 again. Nothing happened. Next she tried pressing 1, on the assumption she might have stopped on the first floor. Again nothing. Next, she tried zero – wondering whether it would take her back to the ground floor.

Naturally, she was getting a little concerned – the lift had stopped and was showing no inclination to move either up or down.

"I pressed the alarm and an automatic, pre-recorded voice said 'Don't panic, help will be with you soon'.

"I heard a 'beep beep' and it contacted the lift company.

"The man who came on asked where the flats were, and where I was stuck. He said 'Don't worry' – I thought he was local, maybe at the worst in Cardiff."

What Frances didn't know was that 'help' would be on its way from Bristol.

While she waited she contacted her friends Marilyn and Richard, who own her flat, and told them she was stuck in the lift. They tried to chase up the lift company and Richard, an electrician, came down to the flats to see if he could help.

When she'd been in the lift for over an hour, she contacted the lift company, only to be told rather curtly "He'll be about an hour and a half" – and she was promptly cut off.

An added frustration was that West Quay Property Management, who look after the flats, close their office at 4pm on a Friday – so she couldn't contact them.

Richard and other people in the flats were doing their best to see if they could gain access to the lift from the first floor.

"I phoned one of my friends Pauline and said 'I'm stuck in a lift'. She said 'For how long?' I replied 'An hour and a half'. She suggested 'What about the Fire Brigade?' I then shouted to Richard: 'Go for it'."

Ely Fire Brigade arrived and went up to the fifth floor of the building. They hoped to lower the lift from the first floor to the ground floor. That didn't work.

"In the end, they prised the doors apart, and I saw Richard and three firemen. I was at first floor level with a jump of two feet."

Frances was relieved that her birthday party was still on – albeit belatedly. She emerged from the lift at 7.15pm – two hours and ten minutes after getting into it.

As she rushed up to her flat to change, Richard bumped into the 'lift man' who told him he had come from the far side of Bristol.

Frances admits she has a calm temperament and was able to enjoy her birthday party – and that the experience won't put her off using lifts.

"I'll have to keep using the lift because I can't walk my shopping up to the fourth floor. The way I look at it is that there are worse things happening in the world."

Susan Ryan of West Quay Property Management explained: "We are sorry that the lift failed while Frances Ashcroft was using it. It broke down after an electrical fault and was rectified on the night by the engineer.

"The engineer was in the Bristol area when the fault occurred and was stuck in heavy traffic on the Seven Bridge and at the Bryn Glas tunnels in Newport. The lift has an auto-dialler and anyone stuck between floors has communication with the control room at Schindler lifts.

"Emergency numbers for contacting our company are posted on the noticeboards, but we or our contractors are not qualified or authorised to touch the lift equipment and only a qualified lift engineer can do that.

"We are grateful to the South Wales Fire and Rescue service for responding to the call and we will be writing to Frances Ashcroft with our apologies. We are pleased that she was safe and able to enjoy her night out after the ordeal."

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Remembrance walk for Stacey

FAMILY and friends of Stacey Armstrong from Barry have taken part in an annual footprints walk in her memory, in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust charity devoted to helping young people across the UK with cancer.

Stacey Armstrong.

This was the second time that the Footprints walk has taken place along with other events held to celebrate Stacey's life which have including a head shave, barbeque, raffle and fun day over the past six years.

Since fundraising began, Stacey's friends, family and the local community have raised an incredible £31,000 to support the work of Teenage Cancer Trust in Wales. All funds raised by the group will be donated to the trust.

Stacey's friends and family decided to take on the Footprints in Memory of Stacey challenge, which saw a team of 78 walk the 15 miles from Barry Island train station to Cardiff Bay, a massive 30,000 steps each, because of the help and support that Stacey received during her time at the Teenage Cancer Trust unit in Cardiff.

Stacey's sister, Natalia commented: "We'd like to thank everyone for their support in helping us to raise this incredible amount of money for Teenage Cancer Trust over the past few years. We'd like to thank our friends, family and local community for their continued support of our efforts on behalf of the charity."

Debbie Jones, Regional Fundraising Manager, South Wales said: "Teenage Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for the seven young people aged 13 to 24 diagnosed with cancer every day. The charity funds and builds specialist units in NHS hospitals and provides dedicated staff, bringing young people together, so they can be treated by teenage cancer experts in the best place for them.

"Traditionally treated alongside children or elderly patients at the end of their lives, young people can feel extremely isolated, some never meeting another young person with cancer. Being treated alongside others their own age can make a huge difference to their whole experience.

"Teenage Cancer Trust wants every young person with cancer to have access to this specialist support, no matter where they live.

"Every day, our specialist staff are there to make sure young people with cancer and their families and friends, don't face it alone. We provide expert care and support before, during and after treatment and bring young people together to support each other. Most of all we want them to be young people first, cancer patients second. But we need the help of our incredible supporters across Wales to help us do more. Currently for every young person we reach there is another we cannot.

"We want to be there for them all. Cancer sucks. Young people shouldn't have to face cancer alone. Together we can make sure they don't," Debbie added.

If you would like to take on a challenge of your own to help transform the lives of young people with cancer in Wales visit www.teenagecancertrust.org or email hello@teenagecancertrust.org.

FROM WEST TO EAST! KARMA MOVES TO NEW COWBRIDGE HOME

THE Cowbridge-based beauty salon, Karma Beauty, held an opening day last week to celebrate its move to new premises.

It was an 'west east' move – from Westgate to Eastgate – and customers were treated to Prosecco and cup cakes as they took a chance to look around the new salon, try a few treatments and plan ahead.

In the evening, there was entertainment from Cowbridge's own songbird, soprano Ellen Williams, who was accompanied on piano by Megan Morris.

Ellen opened her set with the title song from her latest album, *Skylark* – a song that she wrote herself.

Mel Webb, the owner of Karma Beauty, said that it had been an excellent day, and that she and her daughter Lauren were looking forward to welcoming clients old and new to the new premises.

ABOVE: Mel (second right) and Lauren (right) with members of the Karma team.

Ellen Williams with Megan Morris (seated)

BELOW: Customers enjoying the atmosphere on opening day.

Thingumijigs' charity Celtic cheer

FROM LEFT: Andy Banks, Steph Kempley, Dr Jaz Abraham and Dave Shields.

LOCAL ceilidh band, Thingumijigs, brightened up a day at Velindre Cancer Centre when three members dropped in to present a cheque for £500 to Dr Jaz Abraham, the clinical director.

The money the group makes from playing for dances, weddings, birthdays and suchlike is divided up at the end of the year and given to charity.

This time around, it was felt appropriate to give a little to help with cancer research and treatment.

"We've all been touched by cancer at some time in our lives, and whether it's friends or family, we know the terrible impact and suffering that this disease can have on patients and those around them.

"While we can't help directly, we felt that we could make a small contribution to those dedicated medical teams who work here and bring a little hope to the people who, unfortunately, have been diagnosed with cancer.

If you want to see the band in action, it will be playing at St Donat's Arts Centre on November 26. All profits will go to local charities.

AB

Chilling at Hallowe'en

All present were in spook-tacularly high spirits.

"LIKE he that on a lonesome road, doth walk in fear and dread…"

The lines from T*he Rime of the Ancyent Marinere* struck a chilling note for Cowbridge Rotary Club Hallowe'en Night supper at The Bear.

Club members turned up in fancy dress, coming as wizards and witches, ghoulies and ghosties or something straight from the morgue.

The scene was laid for a memorable night, with spooky lighting and a candelabra on every table. It really was a lot of fun. There were competitions; 'best witch' and 'best wizard/ghoul'; 'best pumpkin' and a 'horror quiz'.

For instance, can you remember the names of the couple in 'The Adams Family'? (they were Gomez and Mortitia).

Finally, to round the evening off, there was long, unsettling tale from a seasoned storyteller about a blacksmith and the very strange travelling companion he met as he walked along a winding, lonely road in the forest.

What happened to them? Well, all was not what it seemed. Was there a happy ending? That would be telling. But it was a night that will live long in the club's memory…

AB

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Llangan School

FOLLOWING their mid-term holiday, the Llangan children were eagerly waiting for their next school adventure.

On Friday, November 4 pupils in years 3 and 4 travelled by coach to the Cardiff Castle to learn about the Victorians. I am sure they had a fantastic time.

School donation

TARMAC cement in Aberthaw donated £100 to Llangan School's gardening club and will be working with them to cultivate the school grounds. A big thank you to Tarmac.

Treoes service

SARON Chapel, Treoes will hold a service in the Treoes village hall at 3pm on Sunday, November 13 when the officiating cleric is Rev Philip Dennier; everyone will be assured of a warm welcome.

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Your partner is left with putting the groceries back on the shelves before getting a taxi home with just the essentials, or the dog is running beside you back home, or even the TV recorder is switched on by the family for your use later.

You are a Coastguard Rescue Officer, and you have just been paged to aid a person in distress around the coast.

After arriving at the Coastguard station, you put on your rescue gear and sit with the others in the transport, ready to go. Off goes the transport, you call in the fact you're leaving the station en route to the position on the coast. Further information is passed by the HQ via the radio and you formulate a plan to put into use upon arrival.

When you reach the casualty, you brief the team as to their tasks and they set about setting up the cliff rescue equipment, or forming groups of two or three to begin the search for the missing person.

Maybe they are getting into mud rescue gear, as someone is stuck in the mud with an incoming tide.

As Officer in Charge, you make the vital decisions to achieve a rescue and save a life. You keep an overall lookout for safety and need of any other resources. You may need to call in a rescue helicopter, or a Lifeboat.

Is an ambulance needed, or the police? Your call.

The person is rescued and you pack away the equipment; return to the Coastguard station for a welcome cuppa and then write up the report, talking to HQ about the incident and any lessons learned.

Back home, safe and well to the family. Back to the supermarket to finish the shopping, dog gets a second walk and you watch the rest of the programme you missed. Life is back to normal. You don't consider yourself a hero, just someone who wants to help their community.

Could this be you? Could you respond to an emergency call at any time of the day or night?

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PACT meetings

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, *residents board office, Coychurch Rise, on Tuesday, November 22 at 10.30am.*

Meet your local neighbourhood team at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

CADOC *– Meet your local officers at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry, on Thursday, November 24 between 11am and 1pm.*

LLANDOW-EWENNY *coffee and chat will take place at the Star Inn, Treoes, on Tuesday, November 29 at 11am.*

Award for Vale 'leadership café'?

THE Vale Council's 'leadership café' has been shortlisted in the Team of the Year category for an LGC Awards.

Opened in May 2015, it runs every third week of the month and is open to all employees of the council. Its philosophy is to provide an informal 'café-like' atmosphere for staff dicussions.

The award ceremony will take place in London on March 8, 2017, with finalists being judged on their performance over the last year.

Third-sector advice sessions

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS), which supports local community groups and helps people find volunteering opportunities, is a one-stop shop offering a wealth of services tailor-made for the voluntary sector.

The team is inviting members and non-members to enjoy refreshments and mince pies at any of the following "meet the team," events.

They will be held between 4pm – 6pm on: Wednesday, November 23 at Cowbridge Town Hall (Lesser Hall); Wednesday, November 30 at Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre, Llantwit Major; Wednesday, December 7 at Penarth Town Council Offices, Stanwell Road; Wednesday, December 14 at Barry Community Enterprise Centre.

A spokesman said: "We hope you will be able to join us to find out which of our services would benefit you or your organisation."

For further details about GVS, telephone 01446 741706, email: enquiries@gvs.wales or see www.gvs.wales.

Harri wins Vale Mayor's festive card competition

The Vale Mayor's winning Christmas card entries.

HARRI EVANS, of Ysgol Saint Curig, was overall winner in the Vale Mayor's design a Christmas card competition.

More than 100 entries were received in six categories: nursery; reception; years 1-3; years 4-6; years 7-9; years 10-12.

Eleven cards were chosen to make up the Mayor's Official 2016 Christmas card collection, with all those who contributed to the collection invited to attend a ceremony at the Mayor's Parlour, when the winners and their families were presented with a framed image of their entries.

The ceremony was also attended by television personality and environmentalist Dr Rhys Jones (Rhys Jones Wildlife Patrol).

The winner, Harri Evans, drew a card that saw the Mayor, flanked by Father Christmas and Rudolph, holding up a banner that said: 'Nadolig Llawen.' The Mayor, Stuart Egan, was "delighted" with the response the competition received, saying: "All entries we received were of a very high standard, with a lot of thought and creativity going into each card."

Anyone wishing to purchase the Christmas card collection should contact Julie Brown, personal assistant to the Mayor, on 01446 422406. The funds raised will go on to help the Mayor's chosen charities: The Penarth and District Lesotho Trust and the Llandough Hospital Ochard Project.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

The sacrifice that gave us freedom we take for granted

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

THIS year, for the first time in over a decade, I will not be with local veterans on Remembrance Sunday at services in the Vale of Glamorgan. As Secretary of State for Wales, I have been asked to place a wreath on behalf of the Welsh people at the national Remembrance ceremony in Whitehall.

The laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph in London to honour our war dead is, rightly, a poignant and solemn part of our national life. We in Britain seem to have a special talent for putting on set-piece national ceremonies in the capital with dignity and circumstance, but this is only a part of the mass exercise in remembrance that takes place across the UK.

People up and down the land turn up to remember and respect our fallen in front of war memorials in every town and village, in numbers far exceeding those we can see on televised coverage of the national ceremony.

Every community has felt the loss of war and is connected to the sacrifice made in defence of freedom.

It is heartening to feel the quiet determination of people in towns like Barry, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major to go on remembering long after the mass casualty conflicts of the 20th century.

There will be no end to the remembrance of those who have died for us on the battlefield. The generations who experienced total war may pass, but their stories will remain. Many of those attending local ceremonies on Sunday will be young, some in regular and cadet uniform, but will have a keen appreciation of the heroism and the suffering of those who died so that they might live.

Earlier this year, I visited Mametz Wood in northern France, the site of one of the fiercest engagements of the 1916 Somme offensive of the First World War: 4,000 Welsh soldiers were killed over five days, as they battled successfully to take control of the wood and push the German Army out of their defensive position.

The detail of the survivors' accounts of brutal, sustained, hand-to-hand combat, are breathtakingly horrific.

As we remember this Sunday and reflect on the loss of life, and express gratitude for the sacrifice made, we should also dwell on the sheer courage that these men showed in the face of brutality, carnage and bloodshed that we can only attempt to imagine.

Without that willingness to fight and to die, the freedom we take for granted would not exist and the world would be a far darker place.

Let us forever honour all those who fight and die for us, in every conflict, to protect us and our way of life.

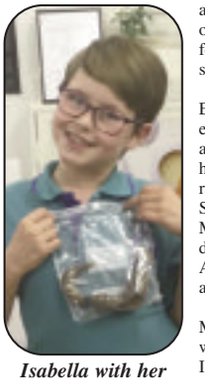
Isabella (9) proves a champion fundraiser

ISABELLA BALDOCK, aged nine, a pupil at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, raised £1,400 for Little Princess Trust and there are donations still to come in.

Isabella's father, Joe, explained: "Three weeks ago, Isabella asked me and her mother Georgina if she could donate her hair to The Little Princess Trust, as she felt sad that children like her lost their hair due to the affects of the treatment for cancer.

"She also hated the fact that they are laughed at and teased for having no hair, and felt she wanted to help by donating her hair as she felt they needed her hair more than she did.

"At first, both I and Isabella's mother didn't take her seriously, but after a few days of persistence, we finally took her seriously and helped her get the ball rolling.



Isabella with her hair donation and new style.

"We set up a fundraising page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/JOSEPH-BALDOCK, titled 'Isabella's Hair Donation', which is still open for anyone who would still like to donate.

"We started to spread the word to family and friends initially to try and hit a target of £300.

"We were blown away by the generosity of the people who came forward and donated in such a short time.

"Special thanks go to Emma Morgan and everyone at SSE FITS and Metering for holding a fundraiser and raising a fantastic £240. SMK Building and Maintenance Ltd also donated £65. The Colcot Arms had a collection and raised £100.

"Sam Lewis at Monroes Hair Parlour, who donated £10, cut Isabella's hair for free and did a great job.

"Isabella would personally like to thank everyone who supported her, The whole family would like to thank everyone for their generosity, support and lovely messages.

"The family would like to say how proud we are of Isabella for being so selfless, thoughtful and kind and what a wonderful young lady she is growing up to be."

St Richard Gwyn makes history with solar farm!

ST RICHARD Gwyn Catholic High School has been provided with a unique opportunity – to be powered by solar energy from an external solar farm!

A school spokeswoman said: "We believe we are the only school in the UK, if not Europe, to be in this position and are delighted that after two years of planning with Conergy UK the St Richard Gwyn solar farm is now fully operational.

"The advantages are two-fold: firstly, the students are taught the benefits of sustainable development and global citizenship in the Welsh baccalaureate, science, geography, and technology, among other subjects.i

"The fact that we use a solar farm to power our school today and for the next 25 years brings the theory alive.

"Students have a greater appreciation and understanding of how we can use natural clean resources as an energy source to power our school.

"Secondly, the reduction in expenditure on utilities from having a direct feed into school and combining this with energy efficient LED lighting throughout the building reduces our electricity costs by 75 to 80 per cent, and allows us to redirect funding to continue to provide a first class education for all and continue on the journey of sustained school improvement."

Jane Hutt AM presented the school with a commemorative plaque marking the opening of the solar farm on Friday, November 4 and she said: "I am delighted to join you today to open this ground-breaking solar farm connection.

"Ground-breaking, because I believe that St Richard Gwyn is the only school in Wales possibly the only school in the UK – with an external connection to a solar farm. What a wonderful accolade!

"It is remarkable to think that this farm will provide enough renewable energy to power the school during daylight hours.

"Indeed, I understand that since work was completed on July 23 the school has noticed a significant reduction in the use of electricity, with an initial estimated cost saving of £8,000 per annum. And what a wonderful insight for pupils – right on their doorstep.

"They will be able to learn more about their natural environment as well as serious issues such as climate change and the need for renewable energy. These are issues which will only become more pressing for future generations."

Speeches which were given by Jane Hutt AM and Steve Lord (deputy head) and interviews conducted with the senior students.

The opening was attended by Jane Hutt AM, Chris Jones (Archdiocese of Cardiff), David Waters (Conergy), Megan Boots (ITV News), David Powell (LEA), Nick Thomas (LEA), Paul McLoughlin (chair of Governors), Martin Price (vice chair of Governors), Paul Burke (past chair of Governors), Steven Grech (headteacher), Stephen Lord (deputy headteacher) and senior students.

Councillor's fear over Communities First

WARDS in the Vale are not sure what is in store for them as the Welsh Government considers the future of its flagship Communities First programme.

Last month, Minister Carl Sargent AM announced he was "minded to phase out" the scheme, but independent councillor Richard Bertin says there is now a considerable amount of uncertainty for schemes in the east end of Barry, including his ward Court.

"Although the Welsh Government has said no final decision has been made, the uncertainty is causing problems for communities who benefit from this scheme," he said.

"What is the alternative? Will the Welsh Government continue to offer the same support to these areas and who is being consulted on the future?

"This is not good news for all those who are involved or who benefit from Communities First."

Communities First is the Welsh Government flagship scheme focused on tackling poverty.

More than £300m has been spent on Communities First since it was launched 15 years ago.

However, AMs, including Andrew RT Davies, have questioned the ratio of staffing costs to results, and in August 2014, the programme was widely ridiculed for offering 'free tattoo design workshops' in Bridgend.

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Lucy Owen's first book helps children's charity

by PHILIP IRWIN

Lucy Owen, pictured in Cowbridge.

BBC TV presenter and Cowbridge resident Lucy Owen has written a children's book to raise funds for the Noah's Ark Hospital in Cardiff.

The book – Lucy's first – will be launched on Friday, November 11, at the hospital, and is entitled *Boo-a-bog in the Park*.

She joined The GEM in the Twt children's playground in Cowbridge to talk about the charity.

She is already an ambassador for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital and all royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to the charity.

On Friday, Lucy and husband Rhodri Owen, whose Welsh adaptation of the book, *Bw-a-bog yn y Parc*, will be launched on the same day, will be reading from the book to children currently in the hospital.

A spokesperson for Noah's Ark said: "*Boo-a-bog in the Park* is a wonderful, reassuring, rhyming story about a little boy called Tom who finds it difficult to make new friends."

Lucy told The GEM: "The heart-warming story is beautifully complemented by Andy Catling's illustrations and has already gained praise from some well-known personalities including Wales Football team manager Chris Coleman."

Chris Coleman said: "A delightful, rhyming story with excellent imagery which I'm really looking forward to reading with my children."

Hollywood actor Matthew Rhys also enjoyed the story and the positive message conveyed.

He said: "This is a beautiful song of hope for the Tom in all of us… If only there WERE Boo-a-Bogs in adult life too. Lucy's obvious flair and talent for rhyme lets this poem of hope fly."

Boo-a-bog in the Park, published by Pont Books, an imprint of Gomer Press will be available from all good bookshops and online retailers.

In Cowbridge, the Cowbridge Bookshop and WH Smith are both stocking it.

For more information, please visit www.gomer.co.uk

BAFTA awards winner writes panto for PODS

PEOPLE in Penarth will know Andy Bradshaw (right) as the joint owner of Hamptons and Shore, an award-winning designer, and one of Penarth Council's 'Outstanding Citizens'.

What they may not know is that Penarth's much loved character trained at the Royal Welsh College in theatre design and worked in theatre and television for over 40 years; designing, writing and puppeteering, and has written a number of BAFTA award-winning series for children's television.

Andy said: "*Robinson Crusoe* is the first panto that I've written for PODS, and was the first professional panto I appeared in at the New Theatre, with Dickie Henderson and Keith Harris & Orville.

"The production team at PODS were keen to have some puppet characters so I obliged with Archie the Dog, Herman the Hermit Crab and Marley the Parrot. There's also an underwater scene with seahorses, jellyfish and a shark.

"Of course it wouldn't be complete without pirates, a storm, a wicked baddie from the depths of the ocean and of course our hero, Robinson Crusoe."

The swashbuckling pantomime adventure Robinson Crusoe is at the Paget Rooms, Penarth on December 1 and 2 at 7.30pm, and on December 3 and 4 at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from Brian Gardner on 029 2071 2260 and via Ticketsource: www.ticketsource.co.uk/pods.

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Ska event raises £7.5k for the Teenage Cancer Trust

Not a rude boy amongst them, but generous scooterists.

In August, The GEM publicised a Ska charity event which was to take place at The Tramshed on September 16 – and the total raised was a very impressive £7,500 for The Teenage Cancer Trust at the University Hospital of Wales.

A spokesman said: "Thanks go to Karl Webb for all his hard work, Steve Fettah and Simon Baston for their help and to all the scooterists who turned up for the ride in Cardiff on the day.

"We want to thank those that bought tickets and made donations.

"Thanks also go to the bands Special Kinda Madness, The Riff, The Navarones and Too Toned, the DJs, compere Dean Caudwell and staff at the Tramshed.

"We also want to thank the Glamorgan GEM newspaper for publicising the event."

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Green group's single-track mind

A group of volunteers has vowed to help clean up Penarth's popular railway walk in a morning of action later this month.

Led by the newly created Railway Walk Group, assisted by Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association, the Action Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 19, starting at 10.30am until lunchtime, and the group hopes to cover much of the path's length with the aid of many volunteers and friends.

A spokeswoman said:" We hope to encourage volunteers to join us on the day to clean up this incredibly popular walkway which stretches from the top of Plymouth Road as far as Cosmeston Drive. We will be tackling the banks of the path, removing branches, concrete and anything else which detracts from this beautiful area.

"Sustrans have donated specially chosen wildflower seeds which reflect the varieties of wildflowers that would once have thrived along old railway lines. Members of the community will also be sowing these seeds on the green in Sully Terrace. Volunteers are welcome to join this group too.

"The event will be sociable and fun – an opportunity for the community and path users to get to know one another and make new friends.

"The Vale Council has been incredibly supportive of this event, and we have pledged to work with them to help keep the path in as good an order as reasonably practical."

Volunteers, who will be provided with appropriate equipment on the day, should meet at 10.30 am on Saturday, November 19 at the Sully Terrace/Archer Road junction of the walkway. If you have your own heavy duty gloves please bring them along!

For further information, volunteers and interested parties can join the group on Facebook – Railway Path Project Penarth.

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Plaid advice surgery

RESIDENTS are invited to attend the Plaid Cymru advice surgery this Saturday, November 12, between 11am and 12 noon at the Community Room, County Library, King Square, Barry with any local issues they may have.

Plaid Cymru councillors Dr Ian Johnson, Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges and Steffan Wiliam will be in attendance.

Open art

VALE artist Glyn Pooley will hold an open studio exhibition at Canonhill Artspace, Canon Street, Barry on Saturday, November 12 from 10am – 4pm; and November 13 from 10am – 4pm.

Wick fair

WICK and District Pensioners' Club Christmas fair will be held on Saturday, November 12 in Wick Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm.

Many stalls including books, cakes, tombola, Christmas items, produce and a grand raffle with numerous prizes.

All welcome, admission £1. Further information from 01656 890386.

Remembrance at Lavernock

THE former Church of St Lawrence at Fort Road, Lavernock will be the setting for an Hour of Remembrance on Sunday, November 13 at 3pm.

Hymns, scripture and poetry readings, and a prayerful act of remembrance should help to evoke the spirit of this season of memories. There will be a warm welcome for everyone.

A free car park can be found on the left of Fort Road just before the church. For further details call Rev Margaret Stark on 02920 701303.

Meeting in St Bride's Major

THE Community Council of St Bride's Major will meet in All Saints' Church, Southerndown on Monday, November 14 at 7pm.

Royal British Legion AGM

The Royal British Legion Barry Branch Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.30pm on Monday, November 14, at the Barry Town Council Chambers, Gladstone Road, Barry. This will be followed by a short branch meeting. All branch members should attend, and interested non members are always welcome.

Fuel poverty advice

NATIONAL Energy Action (NEA) is a charity that campaigns to end fuel poverty.

NEA Cymru aims to advise households at risk of cold-related illness, especially older people. An adviser from NEA Cymru will be available on Tuesday, November 15 from 10am – 12 noon at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. NO appointment needed, just come along for a chat. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Tai Chi

BARRY NPT, in conjunction with John Porter, older people's strategy coordinator at the Vale Council, will hold free Tai Chi sessions on: November 16, 1pm – 2pm and November 23, 1pm – 2pm at Central Park, King Square, Barry.

For more information call 07970 736885.

Association of National Trust Volunteers

THE November meeting of the NT (Vale) Volunteers Association will be held at 7.30pm next Wednesday, November 16 at The Duke of Wellington, when Mr Chris Barker will talk about 'The Royal Mint'.

New members are always welcome. Come and join us.

Floral Christmas

PORTHCAWL Floral Arrangement Society is holding an open evening on Wednesday, November 16 at 7.30pm (open doors from 6.30pm) at the Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl.

There will be a flower demonstration by Delyth Price entitled 'A Magical Christmas'. Everyone is welcome (£10 on the door), tea/coffee and a mince pie provided.

Balloon talk

THE Flatholm Society is hosting a public talk by Dr Bob of Dr Bob's Balloons on Thursday, November 17 at the Kymin Beach Road, Penarth on the history of balloon artistry with a demonstration of the craft.

Dr Bob has created balloon sculptures for corporate and social worldwide. Everyone welcome we ask for a donation of £2/3 to cover costs. There will be refreshments, tea/ coffee and a raffle.

For information, contact Peter Sampson by email pb.samoson@ntlworld.com or call 01446 404842.

Cowbridge Art Society

Today (November 10), Cowbridge Art Society welcomes former V&A curator Roger Pinkham who will give an illustrated lecture on British Surrealists.

The following week, at 7 pm on Thursday, November 17 the society's Christmas Exhibition opens at Old Hall and trophies will be presented.

MS charity concert

COR Meibion Maesteg ar Cylch (Maesteg Male Voice Choir) will perform at Trelales School, Laleston on Friday, November 18 from 7pm in aid of Multiple Sclerosis charity.

It is hoped many people will come along to hear this excellent choir, established in 1974; they have raised many thousands of pounds for charity over the years.

On the night they will be led by musical director Rhian Jenkins and Ryan Wood, accompanist. The evening's soloist is Sarah Morris.

MS is a neurological condition and no cure has yet been found; this is an opportunity to raise funds to help in research, to find a cure for this crippling condition.

Price of admittance £7.50, which includes a glass of wine, and tickets are available from Terry Moseley on 01656 650598. **TH**

Amelia Trust festive fair

THE Amelia Trust Farm is holding its annual Christmas fair on November 19 at Cottrell Park Golf Resort from 11am – 4pm.

Festive fun for all the family, with a variety of craft stalls, activities for children and performances from two local choirs.

Father Christmas will visit the fair and some of our furry friends from the Amelia Trust Farm will be there, too!

There will also be homemade mince pies, cakes and refreshments available. No admission charge, but a donation in the bucket at the entrance is welcome!

More details at www.ameliatrust.org.uk.

Songs of Broadway

***BROADWAY Bounces Back* will be presented by Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society on November 26 at 7.30pm in Porthcawl Pavilion.**

The 40-strong Broadway Chorus will be joined by Tredegar Town Band, winner of Band Cymru 2016 on S4C, and the Sarah Burnell School of Dance from Pencoed.

Tickets £12 (under-16s £9) on hotline: 01656 788148, or box office 01656 815995.

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The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

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Commemoration Service

Sunday 13th November 2016

10.20am Parade assembly rear Cowbridge Town Hall
March to War Memorial
11.00am 2 Minute Silence & Wreath Laying
Parade Marches to Holy Cross Church
Special Day's Commemoration Service
Return to Town Hall for "The Salute & The Dismiss"
Road closures 10.45 - 11.15 and 12.00 - 12.30 at Eastgate, High St and Church St

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Tel: 0300 200 7222
Ceidwadwyr Cymreig

'If I fail to return, I wish you all a last fond goodbye'.

Keeping in touch with family in a time of war

IN the week when we pay tribute to the thousands of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to secure our freedoms, Dr Jonathan Hicks explains how, in the First World War, people were able to keep in touch with loved ones serving abroad, and how local soldiers abroad corresponded with their families back home. Some were never to return...

During the Great War, there was a huge expansion in the role of the Post Office. The Army Postal Service was responsible for Army mail in all theatres of war across the world.

All mail destined for the men at the front was sorted at the London home depot, which covered five acres of Regents Park. It was said to be the largest wooden structure in the world and by 1918 employed over 2,500 staff, mostly female.

By the time the war ended in November 1918, the home depot had handled over two billion letters and 114 million parcels. In 1917 over 19,000 mailbags crossed the English Channel each day, and in the weeks leading up to Christmas 1917 over 500,000 bags were transported.

Corporal JE Price of the 18th Hussars, formerly a policeman at Barry Dock, wrote a letter dated September 25, 1914: 'We are still very busy attacking a strongly fortified German position. We have been here a week now but I expect they will be flying shortly and if they do get routed we shall finish for a while.

'Yesterday a shell burst in our trench quite near my section and my left hand man was struck by a piece of shrapnel which shattered his arm, but I carried him away to the hospital from where he was sent to England.

Bert Clements.

'He was very brave through all the pain he must have endured. I know God will spare me, for He has brought me out of some very tight corners during the past week, especially yesterday when the enemy were firing at us with their large siege guns.

'Sunday is a noted day for fighting. Every Sunday since we have been here we have been hotly engaged with the enemy. I am writing this letter in the house which had been previously occupied by the Germans, who took everything in it, leaving the people without a bite of food or clothes, but this has happened in every village entered by the enemy. The distress of some of the people is terrible and the British help them as far as possible with food etc, from their own supplies.'

Other men were not so fortunate. Mrs. Elizabeth Clements, a widow of 30, Brook Street was preparing a parcel of cakes, sweets and cigarettes to despatch to her soldier-son when the news reached her that he had been killed in action on November 7.

Corporal Bert Richard Clements, aged 23, of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, was her only son.

He was a member of the Cardiff Police Force and had been called up for service as a Reservist at the commencement of the War.

He had also been in the Metropolitan Police. He had arranged his marriage at Christmas to a young lady from Torquay.

Lance Corporal A Hunt later wrote to Mrs Clements to tell her how her son had died: 'It was on November 7th, about 3.30pm, that he was killed.

'We were being attacked, and I had been out of the trench. On coming back I saw some dead Germans and Clem, your son, and I watched them for some time.

'Clem and I always tried to keep together, and whilst we were re-entering the trench he stood upright against a tree. As I was passing – there wasn't much room – I bent my head down quickly, and at once it became covered with dust.

'I looked at Clem, and could see he had been hit, but did not know how badly until I laid him on the ground. Then I could see that a piece of shell from a shrapnel had struck him. When I unbuttoned his jacket and saw a hole as large as my fist under his heart, I said to our section, "Clem is done." He was killed outright.

'We all deeply regret his death for he was such a good comrade and soldier. I know in time you will be happy to know you had a son such as Clem, to die for his country.'

Sergeant John Tipples of the 3rd Bn Monmouthshire Regiment, the son of William and Anne Tipples of 21, Brook Street, Barry Dock, and the husband of Beatrice Maud Tipples, wrote home in March 1915 describing his experiences in the trenches.

'The first time I was in the trench I had a trying experience. The Germans turned their big guns on our trenches and we underwent a very heavy bombardment, one shell bursting four yards from my dugout, but beyond splashing us with mud no one was hurt. I shall not want to see any fireworks in the future; it will be very tame after this, for at night it is a sight of a lifetime to see the shells going up. They illuminate the country for miles around and then is the time to 'duck your nuts', for a perfect fusillade of bullets come along.

'We manage to get a little fun occasionally. On the 10th instant we put up an old bucket and some bully tins on the parapet of the trench and then signalled by means of an old shovel to the Germans how their shots were coming. If they missed we waved an old shirt on a pole. It all helps to make them waste their ammunition, in addition to the fun we get out of it.'

John Tipples was killed two months later on May 11, aged 30. His wife remarried and emigrated to America.

Corporal T O'Flynn of 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rifles was killed on May 9, 1915, aged 25. A month earlier he had written to his mother at 5, Hunter Street, telling her of his involvement in fighting on March 10 and 11, after which he had erroneously been reported as killed. He was the husband of Martha Ann O'Flynn of 17, Holmes Street, Cadoxton.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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'The rats are very annoying'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

In his letter he wrote: 'One day we had to take a trench. I looked upon this piece of work as a death trap. We had to cross a thin plank over a river, and then get into a deep wide ditch. My section was the first to try it. They went one by one but were shot down in the attempt.

'Then my company officer ordered five or six at a time to dash across. I was one of them and got into the ditch up to my waist in water. Your fag case was nearly the cost of my life. After getting up on to the bank I dropped the case and I fell down and crept to where I had dropped it but a sniper must have seen me move for all of a sudden my hat went off and I found afterwards that a bullet had gone through it.

'Well, I got to the trench and found only dead Huns and eleven of my regiment. We had their last line of trench and I found four Germans there. I claimed them and marched them out again and on coming to the crossroads I caught four more looking for their regiment, so I took them to headquarters.

'I did not turn up till next day and I was reported killed, but when Tom turned up with a slip from headquarters to give to my adjutant it was a surprise.'

He was killed during a bombing attack on enemy trenches north of Hill 60.

The 54th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery was based at Salonika in 1916. Bombardier Turner, Driver Roach and Driver Lee wrote home in January that year to say: 'We have been on the Gallipoli (Achi Baba) Front; it was hot work there; now we are having a 'change of diet' with the Bulgarians, having been withdrawn from the Peninsula.

'We have the honour of being the only three Barry boys to be in the first batch of English Artillery troops to land at Salonika. We have had some stiff fights with the Bulgarians. It is all mountain work here, and we are giving the Bulgars 'beans'. They are all right until our Infantry lads show the 'toasting fork' and then they run.

'The Turk is a far better soldier than the Bulgar. We are in possession of a village which not many days ago was in the hands of the Bulgars, who, by the look of the prisoners, seem about 'fed up' and one of them, as he passed caught sight of our guns, and he gazed in awe at it.'

Private Reg Pateman of the 10th Battalion Welsh Regiment wrote to a friend in January 1916 that he had joined up nine moths previously at the age of 16. He had spent six months training at Rhyl before being sent to Winchester.

At the age of 17 he was now in the trenches: 'I was in the trenches last week and find it is not so bad as long as you keep your head down and if the 'Aliman' (as the French call the Germans) do not send over too many 'whizz bangs'. If they do, you have got to get well under cover or you will soon 'go down for coke.

'The water in the trenches is very deep, in some places up to our waists. The rats are also very annoying, and they run away with our food if we leave it about for more than five minutes.'

In March 1916 Guardsman Frank Hall was wounded and from his hospital bed in France he wrote: 'After nine months in the thick of it, you can guess what it was like for me. It was absolutely grand. No sound of guns, no rifle fire, no dodging shells – it seemed like heaven. Not only that but actually a bed with white sheets!

'Perhaps you will not believe it, I had almost a shock over the change, not having seen a proper bed for so long. My temperature was very high when admitted and when I first got to myself someone said, "How do you feel Hall?" and the possessor of that sweet voice, an English lady. Why, I had not seen one since leaving England nine months ago.

'I often hear it asked, "when will it be over?" It is a puzzle I know, but since I have been down at the base I fancy it won't be much longer; but when I am in it, I think it is the beginning of the end of the world. My nine months out here has made me feel as if the happy time at Barry Dock was a dream. What volumes have been crowded into that comparatively short space of time.'

Trooper Bert Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs WM Douglas of Gaspard Place, Barry, was in Egypt with the Glamorgan Yeomanry and wrote home in July 1916: 'I have just had a journey I shall never forget. My destination was a blockhouse many miles away and I started on a camel, my bandolier loaded with 120 rounds of ammunition and 220 rounds in my valise, rifle loaded and a bottle of water.

'After four hours' riding our flanking patrols, who were a long way out in the dark, came in to report the appearance of horsemen. You see, our enemy here is a fellow called the Senussi – a most barbarous customer!

'After waiting awhile...orders came to again move on, and so in single file we passed on until we arrived at the first blockhouse. I had a job to get my camel to go down for me to dismount, but after using the Arabic word to dismount, he eventually got down. After a very short time for stretching legs we were off again. The camel is an awful mount!

'Added to that, I had only a wooden pack saddle, and the memory of that ride will always be with me. Eventually, I fell in with poor Walt Humphreys who was tamping, so I gave up my camel to him. He was also too glad to have a ride, being dead beat. After riding and walking for 13 ½ hours, I was thirsty, footsore and weary.

'The heat is fearful, and the winds that sweep over the desert in the day time burn the face like a blast from a furnace. It takes all the life out of one, and many faint through it, but so far I have stood it fairly well.'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Bert Douglas, on right.

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Men who faced the horror of war

'I may be found yet in the company of dear ones gone before' – a soldier's final letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

'How the boys here talk of 'dear old home,' and pine for Barry with all its rain! We used to grumble at the rain at home, but here in this dried, mighty and monotonous desert I just pine for a drop.

'I feel proud, however, that, as a little Britisher, I am assisting to keep the old flag flying in one of the outposts of our great Empire!'

Gomer Leyshon, a wireless operator on a transport ship, wrote home to his mother at 11, Evans Street, Barry Dock describing the sinking of the troopship *Invernia* in the Mediterranean on New Year's Day 1917: 'On that day we had a bit of excitement. About 10 am I heard distress signals from a 'trooper,' the *Invernia*, which had previously passed us. Ten minutes after she was struck, we were taking survivors aboard. Everything went all right for about an hour; but when we went alongside the 'trooper' to take the crew and officers and those military men (mostly officers) who were unable to get into boats, things looked queer.

'A heavy lea was running, and our ship was knocked about a great deal. When we left the *Invernia* we had about 500 aboard. The last man to leave the doomed ship was the captain, who happened to be Captain Turner of the *Lusitania*. At noon on the 2nd January we landed the survivors at the small but important British Naval base.'

Gomer Leyshon died on April 13, 1919, aged 22, while serving on the *HMS Trawler Thomas Robins* . He was the son of William and Mary Leyshon of Newlands Street, Barry.

David Harris.

Hundreds of thousands of letters home conveyed terrible news. In October 1916 the sad intelligence was conveyed to Mr William Harris of Pyke Street, Barry Dock that his youngest son, Private DJ Harris of the Durham Light Infantry, had been killed in action in France. Private Harris had been for many years an assistant master under the Barry Education Committee and had served at several schools in the town. He was 36 years old and a bachelor.

A faithful member of Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church, Barry Dock, he was also a Sunday school teacher. His brother Gwilym was also serving in France.

In the letter conveying the sad news, Private Alfred Georgeson of the Black Watch stated: 'It is my painful duty to send you a letter herewith which was found on your son's person on the battlefield. It may be some solace to you to know that your son was buried by the boys of the section and, great as I know the loss of your son must be to you, yet he gave his life nobly for a noble cause, and in your mingled feeling of pride and sorrow you will bear your loss bravely to the end.'

In the letter to his father found on his body, Private Harris had written: 'This may be my last message. We have been in support for several days. Tonight we are moving up towards the front line, and as we move forward the more dangerous it is to life or limb.

'If I fail to return, I wish you all a last fond goodbye. My thoughts have been often with you during the last few days. If I am taken from you, don't break your hearts. I am no saint, but I believe there is forgiveness for the chief of sinners, and, who knows, I may be found yet in the company of dear ones gone before.'

Private Harris has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

Dr Jonathan Hicks is the author of *Barry and the Great War* and *Barry and the Second World War*.

Mail arrives at The Front.

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PUPILS at Llancarfan Primary School turned Cancer Research UK's non uniform day on October 21 into a day to remember, by dressing up as their all-time favourite Roald Dahl characters!

Both children and staff joined in the fun and the BFG, Willie Wonka, Matilda and Fantastic Mr Fox were just some of the characters who turned up to school!

The children have had a fantastic autumn term, celebrating Roald Dahl and his centenary year, and enjoying lots of exciting Dahl-based activities. Our After School Club joined in the celebrations too and held a 'Lotions and Potions' night, making gruesome concoctions, just like George and his Marvellous Medicine!

Each of the children donated £1 on the day and this has been donated to Cancer Research UK.

CH

Politicos pedal for RBL's Poppy Appeal

IT'S a long way to Tipperary, but it is also a long way to Mametz Wood – scene of typically bloody fighting during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 – especially if one 'cycles' there.

Local AMs, including Andrew RT Davies, Huw Irranca-Davies and Jane Hutt took part in a static bike ride at the Senedd, organised by and to show support for the Royal British Legion (RBL).

Said Mr Davies: "The RBL held the event in the Senedd for the first time this year, which involves AMs riding on static bikes as they attempt to collectively cover the distance from the Assembly to Mametz Wood," he explained.

He urged local residents to show their support for those who have risked and sacrificed their lives to defend our country's freedoms on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Mr Davies said: "The RBL does fantastic work supporting veterans and it was great to take part in their attempt to collectively ride the distance from the Assembly to Mametz Wood.

Ms Hutt and Mr Irranca-Davies gave similar praise to the RBL, commenting that they were "pleased to have been able to support such a worthy cause".

ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies with Dave Ireland of Change Step Wales and Simone Leonce of Vitality Gyms.

RIGHT: Huw Irranca-Davies pedals to remember fallen British and Commonwealth servicemen.

Ty Hafan's 'Carols at the Castle'

'CAROLS at the Castle' – Cardiff Castle– is back and tickets are on sale.

After last year's sell out, Carols at the Castle is back to help Tŷ Hafan provide comfort, care and support to life-limited children and their families in Wales, all year round.

A Tŷ Hafan spokeswoman said: "This really is a carol concert with a difference. Share an evening of traditional carols and contemporary choirs at one of the most iconic landmarks in Wales."

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children. Under-fives go free. Tickets can be purchased online and in selected Tŷ Hafan stores"

If you are interested in volunteering at Carols at the Castle and want to gain experience in events, please email events@tyhafan.org. Join the Facebook event and follow us on Twitter: @tyhafan #carolsatthecastle.

Seeing stars in Barry!

THE recently formed Barry and District Astronomical Society welcomes all who are interested in astronomy, from the rank novice onwards.

Meetings are twice-monthly, whatever the weather. Twice monthly observing sessions, weather permitting, are held at Barry Island Community Centre on alternate Monday evenings. We start with a talk on various aspects of astronomy or astrophotography and related subjects, followed by a tea break.

We end with questions, demonstrations of astronomical gear and advice on getting the best from instruments you own, or intend to purchase.

For information, contact Dave Powell on 0292 0551704 or 07907 847163, or me on 07855 352147. ***MD***

A sample image produced by Marc Delaney of the Pleiades Star Cluster.

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Tom Ford's Nocturnal Animals are just too cold to connect...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

MANY people fancy trying their hand at directing; movie stars, musicians, all have tried their hand, though fashion designers-turned-directors are few and far between – apart from Tom Ford.

Having drawn critical praise for his debut *A Single Man* back in 2009, it has taken Ford seven years to produce his sophomore effort, *Nocturnal Animals*.

Based on the novel *Tony and Susan* by Austin Wright, it tells the story of Susan (Amy Adams), an art gallery owner who receives a manuscript from her ex-husband Tony (Jake Gyllenhaal), a violent thriller that she perceives to be about their relationship; Susan attempts to reconcile the life she has and the life she gave away as she reads through his work...

There's a moment late on in *Nocturnal Animals* where, as Amy Adams' Susan is gripped by the prose of her ex-husband (which is being played out on screen in a narrative that runs alongside the main one, the protagonist played also by Jake Gyllenhaal) a bird flies smack bang into her window, startling both of them and the audience. A foretelling of dark times ahead, its one of many moments that are heavy on stylish symbolism, something that *Nocturnal Animals* isn't short of.

But quite whether or not there's enough substance to underpin the style is the argument here, and while it's a film that keeps you engaged, it's also a film that never really lets you too deeply underneath lest the weight of the material overcomes the artifice of it all.

You can tell Tom Ford's background lies in design; every shot is coolly calibrated, an exercise in investing mood and ambience into every shot. Suffice to say it's a film that looks incredibly gorgeous – whether it's the cold and clinical life of Susan, as we see the glittering life she lives makes up for no end of longing when the doors are closed; or the rugged and parched Texas landscape where the other plot of the film, the story Susan's ex-husband Tony has sent her, takes place, a story of Western revenge where the film's emotional core truly lays.

In a way, that's a small part of the problem. The most engaging and emotional story is the one we are being told through Susan, the story-within-a-story; the main story itself, concerning Susan's disenfranchisement with her life, the realisation of mistakes and how the grass isn't greener. However, it doesn't match the power of the story Susan is reading.

There's the odd gut punch as we learn how and why Susan and Tony split up, but little more. Instead, the real punch comes from the tale of a family caught up in a nightmarish road trip with dark and deadly consequences.

The performances are solid; if Adams doesn't quite nail the role of Susan (as good as the actress is, she doesn't really capture the angst of a woman whose world is turning upside down and is looking back as a source of comfort), then Jake Gyllenhaal more than makes up for.

Gyllenhaal is developing into one of the most versatile and watchable leading men, and here he is very good, both as Tony, all artistic frustration and futility, and as the main character in his own novel, a man tortured by the mistakes he's made and yearning for a chance to put them right.

It says much of Ford's drawing power that the likes of Michael Sheen, Andrea Riseborough, Laura Linney and Armie Hammer all deliver small but pivotal turns, lighting up the moments they appear.

Michael Shannon as a detective in the story-within-the-story is equally as strong as Gyllenhal. The film picks up a gear when they share the screen together, while Aaron Taylor-Johnson is reprehensible and devilish as the villain of that story.

But despite that, it's a film that feels all too vague and almost soap opera-lite at times. This isn't a film where resolutions come easy (or, in a way, come at all) and when they do, they're not the most satisfying.

It looks superb, there's plenty to savour within, but these *Nocturnal Animals* are a little too cold for their own good.

VERDICT: An intriguing and interesting film that may perhaps be a little too emotionally detached for its own good, *Nocturnal Animals* is beautiful to look at thanks to Tom Ford's stylish direction, and carries weight through the turns of Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Shannon.

But sometimes there's a little too much arch artifice to handle, and this takes what should be a thoroughly compelling film and makes it feel a little less than the sum of its parts. *Average*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *A Single Man* (2009), *Hell Or High Water* (2016).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D955.

● **£2,000:** 333123.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 473976, 662890, 618800, 541577, 815393, 971499, 552721, 777831, 797508, 731633, 793075, 753525, 810346, 828749, 159967, 228606, 150325, 451541, 803438, 1985201.

● **£5:** 887436, 931867, 192064, 792374, 166221, 963501, 665687, 320565, 698445, 938709, 253169, 699959, 853424, 875932, 815737, 132764, 230282, 566065, 130704, 635883, 333029, 724526, 779938, 395832, 625234, 998146, 459048, 476822, 843742, 217377, 630113, 220383, 175179, 517843, 608609, 696343, 572764, 411182, 505797, 704707, 857423, 608002, 225931, 799351, 859960, 171394, 459767, 756079, 702204, 544474, 279179, 778568, 341332, 558926, 000235, 000541, 000080, 001843, 1956841, 1877537.

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D956.

● **£2,000:** 409731.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 157621, 189878, 988276, 382134, 674274, 621293, 748029, 540968, 225183, 303402, 761887, 468042, 443945, 182665, 851639, 904801, 252877, 315074, 1579308, 1984815.

● **£5:** 825648, 244257, 692654, 121541, 402476, 513712, 532075, 560155, 267632, 651063, 792037, 406823, 815070, 750968, 941693, 679935, 315837, 937685, 547947, 282716, 370861, 937092, 726715, 737685, 186042, 132346, 438206, 432831, 981638, 556281, 342008, 514357, 530349, 245262, 113046, 658533, 655057, 131745, 809914, 697043, 427827, 138751, 876462, 931867, 817007, 662890, 834029, 480137, 153371, 656020, 160779, 425010, 864839, 606985, 649540, 228702, 001277, 000666, 1403804, 1985416.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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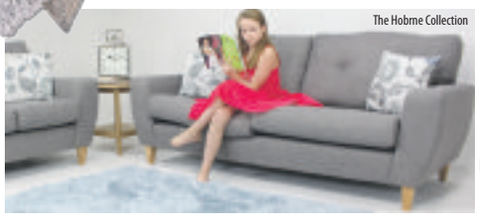
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Christmas Party Guide

MAKE A DATE WITH MR VILLA'S RESTAURANT...
FOR SEAFOOD DINING AT ITS BEST

IN recent weeks The GEM has embarked on a gastronomic odyssey, highlighting the wide variety of dining experiences in the Vale.

by TIM CHAPMAN

Mr Villa's Fish and Chip Restaurant and Oyster Bar is celebrating its first anniversary at the Knap in Barry so it was an appropriate time to see what it has to offer.

The owners, Beppe and Christine Villa, have 35 years of experience in the restaurant trade with sea food dining their speciality. The restaurant provides a wide range of fish dishes, but non-fish too.

It has the bright, cheerful décor of a seaside fish restaurant in blues and whites, colourful vintage travel posters and bleached white wood panels.

I've always enjoyed sea food courses because they tend to be filling without being too heavy. My wife likes fish as a healthy option too.

There's a wide choice of starters and main courses on the menu for meat as well as fish lovers, along with a 'specials board'.

My wife chose the 'king prawns in garlic butter' (£5.50) while I selected the 'calamari' with salad and tartare sauce (£6.25).

My wife enjoyed the king prawns very much. They were the largest she'd ever seen and were juicy and mouth-watering. The butter sauce was delicious.

The calamari was cooked perfectly with a light batter, not in the least rubbery which can happen if over-cooked. It was just right. The calamari was well complemented by the home-made tartare sauce and salad.

For our main courses, my wife selected 'halibut with lemon and caper beure blanc juis' (£18.50); I went for 'roasted hake with a white butter sauce' (£13.50).

The halibut was a lean, sweet and flaky fish and the white wine sauce with butter, herbs and capers, proved an ideal combination. It came with a side dish of new potatoes – my wife ever calorie conscious.

I had the hake which had a subtle, mild taste similar to cod. The home-made chips were excellent.

If we had wanted to, we could have gone for meat dishes such as 'Welsh rack of lamb' or 'pan fried chicken' or 'sirloin steak'. For those interested, the restaurant also does traditional Sunday roast.

It was nice to be able to see the food being prepared at the open kitchen counter by the chef, Simeon, and the second chef Linda.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Battered Cod & Chips
Pan-Fried Chicken with Lemon and Rosemary
King Prawns with Garlic Butter
Cannelloni stuffed with Tomatoes & Roasted Vegetables in a Bechamel Sauce
Roasted Salmon with Tomatoes and Pesto

Mrs Villa's Christmas Pudding & Brandy Butter
Caramelized Oranges and Cream
Raspberry and Almond Bakewell with Cream

£18.50 per person

Dinner Menu for Christmas Parties

(to include a glass of Prosecco on arrival)

Fish Soup to include King Prawns, Mussels and Fish
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Calamari with Homemade Tartare Sauce

Roasted Duck with Apricot & Almond Stuffing/Roast Veg
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Christmas Party Guide

DINING WITH MR VILLA AT THE KNAP IN BARRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

The manager, Rebecca, and waitresses, Emily and Crystal, were friendly and attentive with a quick service. One of my bug bears is restaurants which keep you waiting an excessive time until you are served.

For desserts we went for 'caramelised oranges' and 'chocolate and orange mousse' (both £4.95) – a nice light finish to the meal.

Beppe and Christine demonstrate a real personal touch with diners and are keen to offer any advice on the dishes, and to check that everyone in the restaurant is happy with their meal and the service.

Christine surprised us at the end by presenting us with an extra treat of 'home made raspberry and almond bakewell' and 'steamed pudding with a syrup sauce', which were surprisingly light, and not at all stodgy.

Mr Villa's is offering a three course Christmas lunch menu at £18.50 per person; and a three course Christmas dinner menu at £24.50 per person. Both will include a glass of prosecco on arrival. Now is the time to book that special meal out for the festive season!

Beppe and Christine are proud that all their fish and meat produce comes from Welsh suppliers.

As lovers of fish dishes a return journey is something we look forward to.

Mr Villa's Fish and Chip Restaurant and Oyster Bar is located at the Knap in Barry.

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Police target drivers using mobile phones

THE four police forces in Wales, led by Gwent Police and in partnership with Road Safety Wales, are launching a major crackdown on motorists who use mobile phones while driving.

The All Wales enforcement campaign runs from Monday, November 7 until Sunday, November 20and is urging all road users to 'keep their eyes on the road' and not be distracted by their mobile phones.

Officers will be speaking to drivers about the dangers of using mobile phones when driving and also about the dangers of being distracted behind the wheel.

Officers will be stopping motorists seen using their mobile phones while driving and any offenders can expect a £100 fine and three points on their licence.

Nationally, the number of motorists using mobile phones to make calls, texts or social media updates whilst driving has risen and distracted driving is expected to be the biggest single cause of death and injuries on roads as a result in 2016.

In Wales, more than 500 motorists were caught using their mobile phones whilst behind the wheel during the 2015 campaign.

Chief Inspector Martyn Stone from South Wales Police roads policing unit, said: "Even experienced and competent drivers can be easily distracted and a slight lapse in concentration can have serious consequences. Smart phone are a key part of modern life and we are also seeing drivers being distracted whilechecking social media, reading their emails or accessing the internet.

"Drivers need to be aware that these actions carry the same danger and the same penalty.

"Our main message is clear; keep your eyes on the road. A lapse in concentration when driving can be devastating and this is why officers from all four Welsh forces will be carrying out proactive patrols to target motorists who endanger road users in this way."

Chair of Road Safety Wales Susan Storch said: "Driving a vehicle requires us to multi-task so anything above and beyond that needs to wait until we are safely parked up or until our journey has finished.

"Campaigns such as this demonstrate the resolve of all the Road Safety Wales partners in tackling this issue and we will continue to work together to drive home the message of not using your mobile phone behind the wheel. No call or text is that important."

Police advice

DON'T make or answer calls when you're driving. All phone calls distract drivers' attention from the road.

You can pick up any missed calls or texts when it is safe and convenient to do so. If you need to use the phone when driving, then stop at the first safe opportunity.

It's illegal to use a hand-held mobile when driving on the road even if you've stopped at traffic lights or are stuck in a traffic jam or are in a car park All these situations are covered by the legal definition of 'driving on the road'.

Be aware that if you get just six points in the first two years after passing your test, you will lose your licence.

Drivers of buses or goods vehicles could get a maximum fine of £2,500.

Park safely before using your mobile phone. Do not park on the hard shoulder of the motorway.

Don't call other people when they're driving. If you call someone and they tell you they are driving, ask them to call you back when they have parked up safely.

Plaque for PS Waverley skip

THE picture was taken when members of Barry branch, Merchant Navy Association and Mr T Sylvester of the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society presented the captain of PS Waverley with a branch plaque and documents of the PS Barry, which was once named PS Waverley.

YOUNGSTERS GIVEN FIRST AID TRAINING

Mia Shanahan, Hallie Shather, Ross Harris and Caitlin Cook give a helping hand to new 'friends' – the Resusci twins!

FORTY youngsters from the Rhoose area have been given first aid training – thanks to Aberthaw Cement Plant.

The children, aged nine to 18, are members of Vale Parent Child Homework Support Club, and underwent the life skills session after Tarmac donated money to fund the course.

Held at Rhoose Community Centre, the full day course gave the youngsters the opportunity to undertake practical exercises, while also learning the theory behind first aid and how to treat the most common injuries and accidents.

Ross Harris (11), from Rhoose Point, one of the course participants, said: "We all have accidents and get hurt every so often and so when I learnt of the opportunity to train in first aid I jumped at the chance.

"The course was fantastic and gave us all a good grounding and understanding of first aid.

"I certainly now feel much more comfortable and confident in making the right decisions when faced with a situation where someone is hurt."

The club is run by volunteers and holds English and maths support sessions for Vale schoolchildren, and is now helping older family members to further their skills with adult learning support.

It meets on Tuesday and Thursday during school term time at the Rhoose Community Centre.

Club founder member, Cath Watkins, said: "Thanks to Tarmac's generous donation to fund this training course, we have been able to reach out to young members of the Rhoose community to provide them with a solid understanding of first aid. We hope that they won't need to put their learning into practice but should they need to do so they can do it with confidence."

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Pride In Barry's first litter pick

A BRIGHT sunny morning on Sunday, November 6 provided perfect conditions for Pride In Barry's first litter pick, held in the grounds of the Memorial Hall on Gladstone Road.

Pride In Barry members were keen to ensure the grounds are looking their best for the Armistice and Remembrance services this week, and chair Rhian Lees was joined by three trustees of the Memo Arts Centre, Paul Haley, Anna Denton-Jones and Richard Thomas; Labour AM Jane Hutt, Plaid Cymru Councillors Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges and Ian Johnson and local residents Steve Thorne, Tim and Sid Morgan.

Around 10 bin bags of rubbish were collected and a makeshift den found on the embankment was also dismantled. Pride In Barry is now looking for its next litter picking site and would welcome ideas from Barry residents.

If there is an area in your community that requires some TLC, get in touch via our Facebook page www.facebook.com/prideinbarry or email chairman@prideinbarry.co.uk.

Stitch in time...

STITCH 'N' BITCH is a sociable group of crafters who get together to learn new skills and show their passion for the crafts they do.

Whether you know one end of a crochet hook from the other or not, you'll find a warm welcome, which helps people to get to know one another.

The group also specialise in knitting, cross-stitch, dressmaking and card-making.

You may want to learn a new skill or just refresh, they are always happy to help.

So why not come along on a Monday morning, 9.30am to 11.30am, to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, and give it a go? Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

GF

Flying to the sun from Cardiff Airport

WALES' national airport at Rhoosehas announced further growth during October: the rolling total number of passengers flying from Cardiff Airport (from November 2015 – October 2016) now stands at 1,331,515 (+19 per cent), it was reported this week.

This follows a record-breaking month for its executive lounge, which has seen its busiest month of bookings since opening in 2003. Over 4,200 passengers, including business travellers flying on routes to London City, Dublin, Edinburgh, and Glasgow with Flybe, and Amsterdam Schiphol with KLM, are enjoying this luxury product which includes a selection of Welsh food and drink and free WiFi.

In October, it was also announced that low cost Spanish airline Iberia Express will begin operating out of Cardiff Airport from Easter 2017, with twice weekly direct flights to Madrid – bringing a new airline and a new route to Wales' national airport for next summer.

In October, Flybe announced a brand new route to Rome departing on Tuesdays and Saturdays from March next year. Fares to the Italian capital start from £24.99 each way at Flybe.com.

Spencer Birns, commercial director at Cardiff Airport, said: "We've experienced another month of strong performance from our airlines in October, with customers enjoying a late summer holiday, autumn city breaks and making use of Flybe's service to London City."

Housing projects and the homeless

NEWYDD Housing Association is leading one of five UK housing projects helping homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness, to rent a home through a new £150k fund.

The Help-To-Rent funding programme has been commissioned by Crisis, the national charity for homeless people, and will help the five projects.

The funding will allow Newydd to work alongside the Vale Council, and partners Wales and West Housing, Hafod Housing Association and United Welsh, to promote a shared housing model in the social rented sector, called Rooms4U.

Barnardo's says *thank you*

ON October 22, a coffee morning was held in All Saints Church Hall, Park Road, Barry, to raise funds for the work of Barnardo's.

The committee were pleased that so many people supported such a worthy cause. Over £430 was raised by sales of tickets, cakes, bring and buy items and raffle tickets.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the event. All funds will be used to support the work of Barnardo's in Wales.

Mary Edmunds and Jen Morgan,
On behalf of the Barry Barnardo's Committee.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news... **glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

Hoax call on bonfire night for Barry lifeboat

VOLUNTEER crew on Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat were called away from the fireworks display on Saturday to respond to a call for help that proved to be bogus.

The coastguard had received a message on VHF radio to say a small motor boat had lost its engine and was sinking near Aberthaw. Both Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat and rescue helicopter 187 were launched and carried out an extensive search in perfect search conditions.

A spokesperson said: "Further information was then received that led Milford Haven Coastguard to believe that the call was a hoax. The lifeboat and helicopter, along with Llantwit Major Coastguard, were stood down and the search was called off.

"The lifeboat returned to station just after 9.30pm and was made ready for the next service before the volunteers headed home.

This was the second call out of the weekend: the first was on Friday evening at 7:45pm, to a 39ft yacht with no engine and a depleted power supply. The yacht was heading to Avonmouth, but after a discussion between the coxswain of the lifeboat and skipper of the yacht, it was agreed that the yacht should be towed back to Barry harbour.

"The lifeboat and yacht arrived back in Barry and the crew returned home just after 11pm.

"The RNLI charity relies on donations to carry out its lifesaving work. The station is grateful to the support it receives from supporters across the town and further afield.

"Fundraisers recently accepted a donation raised from sponsorship of the Barry Island Ferris Wheel pods. Thanks go to the Danter families and sponsors for their generosity," the spokesperson added.

For more information on the RNLI, or to donate, visit www.RNLI.org

'Gateway to Penarth' needs major improvements'

A SURVEY carried out by Penarth Tourism & Visitor Association has shown that a considerable amount of work needs to be done to improve the 'Gateway to Penarth', principal entry route into Penarth from Cardiff and the M4.

Carried out on a voluntary basis by the association, it was said to indicate that substantial work was needed to improve the entire environment on the roadway between the Baron's Court traffic lights and Arcot Street, in the town centre.

A detailed work plan by PTVA submitted to the Vale Council three years ago, which has not yet been implemented according to the association, now requires urgent attention by the council; so that visitors to Penarth are not put off by the "scruffy and unkempt appearance of much of the 'public realm', that is evident to drivers as they enter Penarth from other parts of the country."

A spokesperson for the association said: "The Gateway Survey identified a number of key areas that need attention, including the general environment surrounding traffic signals at the Baron's Court junction, where dozens of grey poles and several railings give a particularly bland and cluttered entry into Penarth, closely followed by the uninspiring mini-roundabout at the entrance to Penarth marina, which consists of more posts, vehicle barriers and painted concrete blocks.

"The survey picks up on the entry surrounds to Cogan Station, which it considers a priority area for improvement, and then moves to the entire length of road from the Cogan bus stop up to the railway bridge, which is completely unmanaged and lacking in visual appearance. Although representations have been made to Network Rail to have the bridge completely repainted, the request has fallen on deaf ears due to a 'lack of funding'."

The PTVA report makes clear that some minor improvements to the 'splitter island' at the junction of Plassey Street and Windsor Road would make a substantial improvement.

The spokesman said this week that it was time improvements were carried out, and that this work could probably be financed by the large sums of money arising from the Penarth Heights development, which is well on its way to completion.

Armistice Day display will remember them

Armistice window displays; below, the Penarth shop.

PARK Independent Funeral Directors, whose premises are opposite the Barry Library in Tynewydd Road, Barry, have assembled a window display in memory of service personnel who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts.

A second window display has also been produced for new premises in Stanwell Road, Penarth, with flags, uniforms and conflict medals which every year draws lots of interest from local residents.

A spokesman said: "We invite the public to call at either of our premises and view the displays. It's also an opportunity to meet our team.

"Our Penarth office has an opening offer of a donation to the Penarth RNLI of £20 for every funeral plan arranged by us."

LEARNING CENTRE OPENED IN VALE

THE Leader and deputy Leader of the Vale Council welcomed the first learners to the new Vale Learning Centre this week, as the latest addition to Barry's Central Library opened its doors.

The new facility is the result of a £100,000 investment by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Couns Neil Moore and Lis Burnett toured the three classrooms, computer suite, office space and crèche which have transformed the library into a learning hub.

Construction was completed at the end of October and the state-of-the-art adult learning centre opened to the public on November 7.

Coun Lis Burnett, also cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "Education and lifelong learning is central to the Vale Council's regeneration work, and where better to locate a Learning Hub than the library, the first port of call for anyone seeking information?

"This latest investment in Barry Library provides the whole Vale with a first class facility, purpose-built to help residents of all ages to gain skills and knowledge and broaden their horizons."

GVS can play a role at library

Council Leader Neil Moore and deputy Leader Lis Burnett heard from Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) staff, how the benefits of volunteering can complement activities at the new Vale Learning Centre in Barry library and enhance customers' opportunities.

GVS has a permanent stand at Barry Library with information leaflets about volunteering.

Staff are also available each Tuesday (9.30am – 11.30am), Wednesday (1pm – 3pm) and Friday (1pm – 2pm).

For further details about GVS, call 01446 741706, or email: enquiries@gvs.wales, or visit www.gvs.wales.

SOCIAL CARE 'OSCAR' FOR BARRY DAD

A NEW dad from Barry who works 'round the clock' for the benefit of elderly residents, is celebrating a national award.

Stephen Ivins, a maintenance and health and safety officer at the Romilly Nursing Home in Pontcanna, Cardiff, scooped a coveted gold award in the Social Care Health and Safety Award category of Wales Care Awards 2016.

The 42-year-old from Barry received his trophy at a ceremony in City Hall, Cardiff.

The awards, run by Care Forum Wales, acknowledge the hard work and exceptional performances of those in the care sector and are widely regarded as the 'Oscars' of the care industry.

Stephen, a former Ely Rangers footballer, said: "I was really nervous and excited at the same time. Winning gold is absolutely brilliant, but I wouldn't have been disappointed with silver or bronze. I'm very proud and chuffed to have won. My phone has been constantly out since coming back to the home, as all the residents want to see the photos from the night.

"It's nice for them to be able to share in the success. Everyone has been asking to see the trophy.

Stephen Ivins is "chuffed" to have won the award.

"It was a brilliant night and there were some real tear jerking moments in the stories that were told. It was an amazing experience."

Stephen, who has been in his current role for the past eight years, works around the clock to ensure his residents have the best living environment possible – including personalising the décor of their bedrooms to create a home from home.

The health and safety worker, who is often called out of his bed in the middle of the night to fix unforeseen maintenance problems, has had a few more interrupted nights since the birth of his son Brodie Ivins, 16 months ago, but admits he wouldn't change his job for the world.

"When you decorate the rooms and put all the things they find nice and comforting and personal, it's very rewarding," said Stephen, who is responsible for all aspects of site management including health and safety, maintenance and fire safety

Stephen, who lives with his partner Gemma and attended Bishop of Llandaff School in Cardiff, admits the only time he is unpopular with the residents is when he has to test the fire drill: "They all love me for that," he joked.

War cemetery visit prompted moving poem

JUST over 10 years ago, GEM reader Ivor Williams visited the Normandy beaches with his wife and daughter.

His experience there was profound, especially after first visiting the American cemetery and then a visit to a smaller British cemetery, just inland from Arromanches.

In the small cemetery, he found individual messages from family at the feet of the gravestones and individually, they were gentle but moving. At first, he could handle the sentiment behind them but the more messages he read, the more emotional he became until he reached a point, when he sobbed ... it was the first time his daughter had seen him cry.

The experience moved him to write a poem on returning home entitled '...But Not Forgotten.'

Ivor has now made a YouTube version of his poem with the addition of photographs and music. The link to his poem is *youtu.be/f11oMU6BVDk*.

...But Not Forgotten

The battle might be over,
the battle might be won,
but someone lost a brother,
someone lost a son.

Someone lost an uncle,
someone lost a dad,
someone lost a lover
and the life they may have had.

Someone lost a comrade,
someone lost a friend,
someone lost the will to live
with a heart that wouldn't mend.

Someone stood among them
And, looking all around,
thought upon, not losses,
but a gratitude he'd found.

For someone thought he'd only seen
futility in war;
Yet someone found humility
he'd never felt before.

For someone found the reason
why they'd sacrificed their youth;
they found the courage to defend
what they'd believed was truth.

And someone found emotion
and someone found a pride;
and someone standing with them
was one who stood and cried.

Dedicated Poppy sellers are praised

Alun Cairns meets the Poppy sellers in Barry.

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns MP, visited volunteers raising money for the Royal British Legion at Barry's Waitrose branch in Palmerston and Tesco in Highlight Park to thank them for their work.

He was impressed by the dedication of the sellers, many of whom are putting in eight-hour shifts five days a week before being relieved by Scout and Cadet groups on evenings and weekends.

The volunteers in both supermarkets told Mr Cairns that the public were being even more generous than usual in the week leading up to the commemorations of Britain's war dead, with thousands of poppies sold and collection tins filled to the brim every day.

The Vale MP said: "I am pleased that collections this year seem to be greater than they have been previously. I believe that this may be connected to the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, which will always have a solemn place in our collective memory.

"The Royal British Legion do a wonderful job in providing lifelong support for veterans and ensuring that we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Gareth beats off stiff competition to snatch gold prize

A KITCHEN assistant at St Cyres Comprehensive School in Penarth has scooped top prize in a catering competition for excellence.

Competing in the biscuit category of the Celtic Creations Competition, Gareth Humphries served up four delicious varieties of biscuit: parmesan and thyme, Viennese whirls, Christmas cake cookies and custard creams.

These were then judged during the afternoon of the Lead Association for Catering in Education's (LACA) recognition of excellence awards, with Gareth Humphries' selection being deemed most worthy of the gold award.

Entry into the competition was open to all catering staff from across the 22 local authorities in Wales, with another Vale of Glamorgan representative – Hayley Fellows of Ysgol y Deri – receiving a merit for her cupcake entry.

Gareth Humphries.

Mr Humphries said: "I'd like to thank the catering management team for supporting me and Hayley, while competing in the competition. I've worked at St Cyres for almost two years now, and am thrilled to have won the award."

The LACA represents the country's school food industry, and has set out to inform, develop and represent its members through a range of initiatives and services. Its mission statement reads "Together, we achieve excellence in schools", and the event highlighted those achieving excellence in their respective schools.

Other members of the Vale Councils catering team also received recognition for their contributions to excellence.

The team at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, for example, finished as finalists in the Frontline Catering Team category by displaying a high level of enthusiasm, initiative, commitment and effort in order to maintain a consistently high level of professional standards when supporting pupils and staff.

'True meaning of the poppy'

REMEMBRANCE Sunday takes places this week, as we all stop to reflect and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms.

While many associate Remembrance with the First and Second World Wars, it should not be forgotten that it is to honour all of those who have died or suffered in war.

The poppy is of course inspired by the sight of the flowers growing in battle-scarred fields during the First World War, and the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*. But it represents everyone affected by conflict, and is a symbol remembrance and hope.

I know all residents will join me in paying tribute to the Royal British Legion for the work they do in supporting the Armed Forces Community, including serving men and women, veterans and their families.

November may be a time to collectively remember, but our brave servicemen and women – and those we have lost – should and will be in our thoughts all year round.

They put their own lives at risk to make ours safer, and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude that is too great to put into words.

Andrew RT Davies
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, South Wales Central AM.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

'Harsher punishments for those who assault police' – *Ogmore MP's call*

OGMORE MP Chris Elmore has spoken in Parliament calling for increased punishment for those who assault police officers.

It is estimated that 23,000 police officers are assaulted every year, although this figure is thought to be much higher.

The MP said: "Officers in our community have been clear time and time again that they believe their safety is endangered by the weak sentences given to those that assault officers.

"We must take these claims seriously and consider tougher sentences for those that attack the police. Unfortunately, officers who have been assaulted often don't even report or record the incident.

"No one should be assaulted at work. Especially when their work is making the communities we live in a safe place."

Records show that almost 2,000 officers are assaulted a month and on average an officer is assaulted every 22 minutes.

Mr Elmore joined the Police Federation in a campaign which called for a review of sentencing for those convicted of assaulting police officers, "as too often, sentences being passed do not adequately reflect the seriousness of the offence," he said.

Golden age of travel is recalled during stately memorial drive around the Vale

RECENTLY, the stately age of travel was recaptured for a few days as two horse-drawn carriages made their way through the Vale and Bridgend county borough.

Entitled, 'Dr Mary's Memorial Horse and Coach Drive', the event was in memory of Dr Mary Lewis. Indeed, the team of four white horses, from Lewis and Isaac coaching, were frequently driven by Dr Mary herself.

There was also a second team of four Hackney horses pulling a coach, and the aim of the drive was to raise funds for Velindre Hospital.

The three-day event started at Cottrel Park Golf Club and finished at Nant Mwth Farm, Bridgend.

Along the way, they passed through Cowbridge, Llandow, Wick, Ogmore-by-Sea, Laleston and Coytrahen.

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

Chance to meet local veterans and hear about Woody's Lodge

FRIDAY, November 11, Armistice Day, is more popularly known as Remembrance Day in the UK.

This Friday, at The Business Centre in Barry, not only will people have the opportunity to pay their respects to those in the Armed Forces and our veterans, but they can also hear about a new project, Woody's Lodge for veterans, that is being developed in the Vale.

As reported in The GEM recently, The Woody's Lodge Management Board (WLMB) has been working to open the Woody's Lodge Centre for veterans at RNR HMS *Cambria*.

Woody's Lodge, a much needed veterans' centre in the Vale, is named after and commemorates the life of local Royal Marine Paul 'Woody' Woodland, a member of the Special Boat Service who died in October 2012 during a training exercise while preparing for deployment to Afghanistan.

Initial analysis has shown that there are more than 5,000 veterans residing in Barry alone, with over 60 per cent of these residents now over the age of 65 years, many of whom are possibly facing welfare, health and social problems.

Woody's Lodge will be there to offer companionship and direct signposting to agencies and organisations that offer required skilled support.

Chris Benson of Crystal IT, at The Business Centre Ltd, has arranged for the veterans of WLMB to come to use the meeting rooms and conference facilities at The Business Centre tomorrow, November 11, to explain more about this extremely important project.

It will be an opportunity for people to also meet the veterans themselves and to show their respect for Armed Forces and veterans with the minute's silence at 11am.

For more information about the event, contact the centre manager, James Mason on James@thebusinesscentreonline.co.uk or call 01446 739911, we look forward to welcoming local people in large numbers!

SARAH MASON

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

LIFT (Life Is For Today)

The LIFT group offers friendship and support to those affected by breast cancer.

We meet in Cowbridge once a fortnight, between 10am and 1pm for relaxation therapies or 2pm – 4pm for other activities such as speakers or trips out. Come and join us, bring a friend, for friendly, supportive and confidential get-togethers.

If you know anyone who might benefit from this group, ring Anne on 01446 772843 or Judith on 01446 794176.

Wenvoe craft fair

THE first Wenvoe Christmas craft fair will take place on Sunday, November 27 from 10am – 4pm in Wenvoe village hall.

Many stalls, including jewellery, handmade gifts, wall art, engraved glass and more; refreshments and a raffle on the day.

Toy and train sale

BARRY toy and train sale takes place on Sunday, November 27 from 10.30am – 3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry (CF63 4RU).

For more information call 01643 702757/07966 6 9 4 5 7 9 ; www.chrisdyerfairs.co.u k.

Italian film festival

THE Italian Cultural Centre Wales presents its second Italian Film Festival Cardiff (IFFC), which will run from November 23 – 27 at Penarth Pier Pavilion and Chapter Arts Centre.

The IFFC will be launched on November 23, at 6pm in the Pavilion with the opening of the Melanzasca exhibition, by illustrator and artist Silvano Beggio.

This will be followed at 7.30pm by Ermanno Olmi's latest masterpiece *Torneranno i Prati* (Greenery Will Bloom Again), a harrowing account of World War One.

Producer Elisabetta Olmi will join the Q&A after the screening.

Cerddorfa Dinas Powys Orchestra

THIS year's winter concert will feature flute soloist Andy Martin in a programme of works by Beethoven and Mozart.

The concert will take place in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys on Sunday, December 4 at 7.30pm.

Tickets £8 (£3 age 12 and under) available at the door on the night; from Griffin Books, Penarth; or the Clerk, Dinas Powys Parish Hall. *Call 02920 706288, or visit www.cdpo.org.uk.*

Blaze at Aberkenfig closes Bridgend Road

POLICE were forced to close a road in Aberkenfig on Tuesday evening (November 8), after a fire broke out in a local business.

A South Wales Police spokesman said: "At 7:42pm today, police and fire officers responded to a report of a fire at Keens Tackle and Guns, a commercial premises on Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig.

"The fire was quickly brought under control before it could spread to the main shop area of the premises.

"As a precaution, Bridgend Road has also been closed and will remain closed until further notice.

"Nobody was injured, and an investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing."

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Environment and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 16 NOVEMBER 2016

All Homes4U properties have double glazing and central heating unless otherwise stated and will be allocated to the maximum occupancy.

It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

BURDONS CLOSE, WENVOE

H4U Reference 131017

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Local lettings policy applies

Rent £83.92 per week including water charges

CRAWSHAY COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 234065

60 plus

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor with lift
- Warden and alarm

Rent £109.43 per week including water and alarm charges

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 133479

- Three-bedroom maisonette
- Parking
- No garden

Rent £98.28 per week including service charges

LONGMEADOW COURT, COWBRIDGE

H4U Reference 230368

60 plus

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor with lift
- Warden

Rent £121.91 per week including water and alarm charges

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U Reference 137530

- Three-bedroom house

Rent £101.93 per week including service charges

MAIN STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 137528

- One-bedroom flat
- Third floor (no lift)

Rent £90.72 per week including service charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 137566

55 plus

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor with lift
- Level-access shower
- Scheme co-ordinator

Rent £120.15 per week including service and water charges

SHELLEY CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 223406

- Two-bedroom house

Rent £104.83 per week including water charges

ST GOVANS CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 225002

55 plus

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor

Rent £97.47 per week including service and water charges

WEST WALK, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 227713

40 plus

- 2 x one-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Level-access shower

Rent £94.14 per week including alarm charges

WINSTON ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 251697

- Two-bedroom house

Rent £104.83 per week including water charges

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view homes available now
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Politicos pedal for the Poppy Appeal

ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies with Dave Ireland of Change Step Wales and Simone Leonce of Vitality Gyms.

RIGHT: Huw Irranca-Davies pedals to remember fallen British and Commonwealth servicemen.

IT's a long way to Tipperary, but it is also a long way to Mametz Wood – scene of typically bloody fighting during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 – especially if one 'cycles' there.

Local AMs, including Andrew RT Davies, Huw Irranca-Davies and Jane Hutt took part in a a static bike ride at the Senedd, organised by and to show support for the Royal British Legion (RBL).

Said Mr Davies: "The RBL held the event in the Senedd for the first time this year, which involves AMs riding on static bikes as they attempt to collectively cover the entire distance from the Assembly to Mametz Wood," he explained.

He urged local residents to show their support for those who have risked and sacrificed their lives to defend our country's freedoms on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Mr Davies said: "The RBL does fantastic work supporting veterans and it was great to take part in their attempt to collectively ride the distance from the Assembly to Mametz Wood.

Mr Irranca-Davies and Ms Hutt gave similar thanks to the RBL, commenting that they were "pleased to have been able to support such a worthy cause".

No furrowed brows at ploughing match

ON October 27 the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held a meeting in the Six Bells Inn, Penmark.

The chairman, Andrew Studley, opened the meeting with a vote of thanks to all those who worked hard to make the ploughing match held in September a great success – the competitors, judges, stewards, office staff and, above all, Graham David (president) for making the site available at Little West.

He was also pleased to report that the match was well supported by the public, in spite of a few heavy showers which would have put many people off attending.

The secretary, Sarah Radcliffe, confirmed that the ploughing match had been a very successful event, and thanked the sponsors for their co-operation and support throughout, adding a big 'thank you' to the Tractor Boys/Girls of Aberthin for looking after the catering tent.

The treasurer, Rhys Morgan, had a smile on his face when he reported that the money raised at the gate and in the raffle was "most acceptable" and, after all the invoices had been paid, left a healthy balance in the accounts for 2017.

The chairman informed the meeting that due to popular demand there would be a society ploughing event in Gileston in late March 2017 for members and friends and will be restricted to a small number of classes.

Programmes will be available after the January meeting of the society.

It is also hoped that the society will stage an event in September 2017 at Boverton, which will incorporate the All Wales Ploughing Championship and the Ferguson T.20 Tractor and Plough Welsh Open event.

Further details will be published in the New Year.

John Thomas of Gileston informed the meeting that the hedge cutting event will again be held in the Vale and a site is being sought for a hedge laying event in late March 2017. The society is considering purchasing its own tent etc for 2017.

Finally, one of the society's founding members, Jeremy Jacobs, a well-known competitor in the UK and Europe and who competes under the banner of the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society, will be sponsored by the society to help with travelling expenses etc, and all wished him well in his competitions.

Any member or supporter of the society who wishes to help in any way, can contact the chairman on 07980 921990, or the secretary on 07976 95068. **BG**

Past and present: two forms of horsepower.

Barry men entertained on the 'Butch' railway

THE chairman of Barry Men's Forum welcomed new member Hayden Burgess, before introducing the speaker for the morning, Mr Alan Salisbury, who told how on a holiday in America he was persuaded by a fellow traveller to go on the Narrow Gauge railway in the Rockies, that winds precariously between the mountains and the Animos River in the valley.

A renowned American railway engineer, William Palmer, married in 1880 and came to Britain on his honeymoon. In Wales he visited Blaenau Ffestiniog, and was very interested in the railway, taking back with him full details of this 3-foot gauge track and engines

On returning to America, he starting constructing the Durango to Silverton Railroad, and in nine months, the 45 miles of track was completed, able to provide the silver boom town, with a connection to the outside world; 135 years later it is carrying 170,000 passengers per year.

Alan showed a film he had taken of his trip, which takes three and half hours each way, as it steams to an altitude of 9,000 feet, using 6 tons of coal.

It crosses the river over five bridges, and clings to the side of the mountains in frightening spectacular fashion, making it difficult even just watching the film, to take in the beauty of the surroundings.

He said most of us, would have seen parts of the railroad previously, as it has been used in numerous films, such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

The next meeting is on November 10, when Mr Chris Baker will be talking about the Llantrisant- based Royal Mint.

New members are welcome at £2 per meeting, 10.15am.

The Barry Men's Forum meet at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday morning, for further information, contact the chairman Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

PMW

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£225,000

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• 5 bedroom property • 3 Ensuites • Double garage • Sea views
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LLANTWIT MAJOR

• 4 bedroom cottage • 3 reception rooms • 2 garages • Large garden
£500,000

YSTRADOWEN

• Period farmhouse • 4 bedrooms • Private location • Possibility to purchase extra land
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PEN-Y-FAI

• Extended 4 bedroom property • Secluded location • 1.1 acres in total • 3 garages
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LALESTON

• Private parking • 3 bedrooms • Modern interior • Charm and character
£250,000

YSTRADOWEN

• Semi detached property • 3 bedrooms • Sought after village • No chain
£230,000

BONVILSTON

• 5 bedrooms • Under floor heating • Annexe potential • Double garage
£650,000

MOUNTAIN ASH

• Approxiamtely 336 acres • Potential for agricultural and equestrian use • Located close to Cwmpennar
£650,000

BRIDGEND

• Bay fronted semi detached house • 3 bedrooms • 2 receptions rooms • Extended and improved
£215,000

COLWINSTON

• 5 bedroom • 3 reception rooms • Potential for building plots subject to planning
£625,000

BRIDGEND

• Mid terrace property • Brand new bathroom suite • 3 bedrooms • Private garden to rear
£99,950

HENSOL

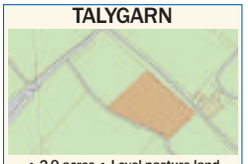
• 6 bedrooms • Period features • Approximately 2/3 acre • Cowbridge catchment
£725,000

CORNTOWN

• No chain • Semi detached property • 3 bedrooms • Cul de sac position
£675

TALYGARN

• 2.99 acres • Level pasture land • Good road access • Suitable to grazing
£50,000

TALYGARN

• 2.9 acres • Level pasture land • Good road access • Suitable to grazing
£50,000

MAESTEG

• Approximately 23 acres • Located on the outskirts of Garth • Access available directly onto public highway
£50,000

COED ELY

• An allotment • Located near semi-detached houses • Approximately 0.1 acre
£10,000

LLANGAIN

• c.34 acres of agricultural land • Useful farm buildings • Equestrian potential • Private location
£250,000

MAESTEG

• Development site • Planning for 3 bedroom property • c.10.6 acres • Elevated position
£189,000

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BARRY AND DISTRICT LADIES SKITTLE LEAGUE RESULTS

THE latest results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing October 24 are as follows:

First division: Bobby's Girls (N Toogood 23) 257, SV Gals (C Gaffney 31) 266; Family Affair (S Evans 26) 203, Pila Palas (J Griffiths 27) 230; Red Admiral (R Smith 27) 242, Bakers Dozen (E Lewis 29) 259; Cigar Ladies (J Wood 29) 303, Barry Stars (M Richards, J Green 28) 277; Allsorts (R Dawe 32) 255, Coppers (J Hartnell 27) 267; Colcot Ladies (C Fenton 30) 258, Special Angels (T Jones 27) 245.

Second division: Castaways (S Billings 27) 262; Castle Bandits (E Evans 30) 278; Fallen Angels (L Chambers 28) 245, Roller Coasters (S Thomas, C Thomas 27) 268; Clickies (G Jackson 32) 281, Cad Con Fillies (D Stringer 31) 299; Breakaways (C Parfitt, Vicky Martin 31) 312, After Eights (M Conibear 37) 296, SV Lights (G Douglas 28) 265, Witchill Widows (S Pyrow 29) 278; Merry Makers (R Collins 27) 191, Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 27) 228; Airways Angels (E Lewis, L Thomas 27) 234, Witchill Weebies (S Low 27) 245.

Third division: Dolly Mixtures (P Brigham 21) 151, Little Devils (S Harrhy 25) 204; Witches (L Carey 27) 236, Vixens (M Marks 29) 252; La Belles (E Cordy 36) 330, Rebels (L Saunders 30) 298; Hill Billies (I Dimond 30) 308, Rugby Triers (S Cogbill, K Brooke 30) 288; Etcetera (C Stillman 25) 237, Challengers (P Brinding 26) 229); Twilights (C Brown 25) 204, Uptown Girls (L Braithwaite 30) 241; SV Ladies (F Butler 33) 297, Westenders (S Moran 35) 313.

Fourth division: Hell Raisers (S Norris, J Rosser, M Davies 22) 221, Nite Outers (V McCorn 26) 239; Witchill Wanderers (S Reynolds 33) 252, Optimists (S Hayne 34) 338; Persuaders (B Organ 24) 215, Off The Rails (D Hitchcock 25) 216; Odd Bods (T Cerian 30) 223, Aristocats (C Chatwell 24) 210; Guardian Angels (S Clarke, G Fifield 226) 294, Boozy Birds (L Earls 23) 207; Socialites (S Marks 27) 240, Living on a Spare (A Finn 30) 274.

Lake makes amends for Aberthin's Tim

JUST three days after refusing to start in its previous race Lake Chapala, trained by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, won the RacingUK.Com/HD Handicap Chase at far-flung Musselburgh, which is some 381 miles from Aberthin.

Partnered by Alan Johns, Lake Chapala came home one-and-a-half lengths ahead of the favourite Endeavor.

BRIAN LEE

Barry RFC news

LAST week's lottery numbers were 07, 09, 10 and 20, which again could not be matched; this weeks jackpot will be £2,930.

Barry first XV return to league action this weekend when they travel to Abercynon for a 1.30pm kick off due to the Wales v Argentina game in Cardiff.

The coach will leave the club at 11.45am, returning at about 4pm to be home in time to watch the game at the clubhouse, which kicks off at 5.30pm.

Those selling Christmas draw tickets are reminded that the draw will take place on Saturday, November 26, and that counterfoils and monies should be returned as soon as possible - please leave at the bar with Carol.

A.J

For the latest sporting news - *sport_gem*

New book details a historic Welsh footballing summer!

PLAYERS from the Wales football team have sung the praises of a new book that details the incredible success story of the team during the summer of 2016.

When Dragons Dare to Dream (Published by Y Lolfa at £9.99) is the follow-up of Jamie Thomas' successful The Dragon Roars Again and starts where that left off.

"Qualification for Euro 2016 meant absolutely everything to us, as a team, as a nation of people who have waited our whole lives to see Wales competing at a major tournament," said Joe Ledley. "That feeling of qualifying was just amazing, and we couldn't wait to get to France to put our country on the map and make a nation proud of us once more."

"To try and tell our nation's incredible story over the summer is no easy task, but Jamie's done a brilliant job of it with this new book. It's a must read for any football fan," he added.

Euro 2016 was the first major tournament for the national team since 1958. The success of the team was a dream come true for many fans and culminated with the team reaching the Euro 2016 semi-finals.

The book includes in-depth analysis of and insight into the journey taken during the summer of 2016, including an exclusive interview with Mark Evans of the FAW which offers a glimpse into the preparations for, and events in the team base during, the tournament.

The beauty about this book is that you don't really have to be a football fan to enjoy it - just a patriotic Welshman or woman!

BRIAN LEE

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00305/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposal is for on line improvements to the existing A4226 between Waycock Cross Roundabout in Barry and the lay-by to the north of the Welsh Hawking Centre and an off line new road provision to the east of the existing A4226 which will reconnect with the existing A4226 just to the south of Blackland Farm
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent A4226, Five Mile Lane, Barry
Additional documents received

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00305/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposal is for on line improvements to the existing A4226 between Waycock Cross Roundabout in Barry and the lay-by to the north of the Welsh Hawking Centre and an off line new road provision to the east of the existing A4226 which will reconnect with the existing A4226 just to the south of Blackland Farm
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent A4226, Five Mile Lane, Barry

Application(s) with Environmental Statement / Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land adjacent A4226, Five Mile Lane, Barry.

I give notice that Vale of Glamorgan Council, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Proposal is for on line improvements to the existing A4226 between Waycock Cross Roundabout in Barry and the lay-by to the north of the Welsh Hawking Centre and an off line new road provision to the east of the existing A4226 which will reconnect with the existing A4226 just to the south of Blackland Farm.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement (and addendum October 2016 – further information received) which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £150.00 (paper copy), £10.00 (CD/DVD copy), or the Non-Technical Summary free of charge from Support Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT, so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 1 December 2016.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Regeneration and Planning at the address given below by 1 December 2016 quoting reference 2016/00305/RG3.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land adjacent A4226, Five Mile Lane, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Vale of Glamorgan Council, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Proposal is for on line improvements to the existing A4226 between Waycock Cross Roundabout in Barry and the lay-by to the north of the Welsh Hawking Centre and an off line new road provision to the east of the existing A4226 which will reconnect with the existing A4226 just to the south of Blackland Farm

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol (ac atodiad Hydref 2016 – wedi derbyn gwybodaeth ychwanegol) sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Gall aelodau o'r cyhoedd gael copïau o'r datganiad amgylcheddol am gost o £150.00 (copi papur), £10.00 (CD gopi / DVD),neu'r Crynodeb Annhechnegol am ddim gan Wasanaethau Cymorth, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Doc Swyddfa, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri CF63 4RT, cyhyd ag y stoc yn parhau.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 1 Rhagfyr 2016.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 1 Rhagfyr 2016 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2016/00305/RG3.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 10/11/16

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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The GEM	45,489	(Jan 2015 - Dec 2015)	Priceless
Barry & District News	3,929	(Jan 2015 - June 2015)	Paid 50p
Penarth Times	4,132	(Jan 2015 - Dec 2015)	Paid 50p
South Wales Echo	19,158	(Jan 2015 - June 2015)	Paid 65p
Western Mail	18,641	(Jan 2015 - Dec 2015)	Paid 80p
Glamorgan Gazette	9,094	(Jan 2015 - June 2015)	Paid 90p
Wales on Sunday	14,789	(Jan 2015 - Dec 2015)	Paid £1.50

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Family Notices

CAIN
Edwin John

Suddenly on October 31 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Edwin of St. Athan. Beloved husband of Eileen, much loved stepfather, grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, November 15, service 2pm at Flemingston Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home. Donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

BARNES
Anne (née Bird)

Peacefully on November 1 at Llandough Hospital, Anne, aged 90 years, of Sully. Beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved sister and sister-in-law, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, November 11, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Stroke Association c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

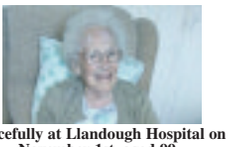
HOOPER
Teresa Bernadette (née Dawes)

Peacefully on November 1 at home, aged 89, Bernadette, beloved wife of the late Bernard. Loving mother of Barbara, John, Michael, Teresa, Catherine and Pauline. Also devoted grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting at James Summers & Son Lavernock Court, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 5UP until being received into St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, November 15 at 4.30pm, followed by Requiem Mass on Wednesday, November 16 at 11am and then afterwards at Penarth Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, or donations in lieu, if desired, to St Vincent De Paul Society. Donations can be taken at St Josephs Roman Catholic Church.

GLOVER
Joan Blodeuwedd



Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on November 1st, aged 99.

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain
When you wake in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quite birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.

With love, Andrew and Rachel and all of the family.

(No service by mum's request)

KNIGHT
Mary (née Williams)

Passed, aged 62, after bravely enduring her fight with cancer. Much loved wife of Rick, daughter of Barbara, sister to Catherine, mother to Susan and Jenny, step mum to Karen, nanny to Sean, Sienna and Ella.

Mary will be missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, November 14 at 3.45pm. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

VERNON
Colin William

(16 February 1942 - 1 September 2016)

The School of Biosciences have returned Colin's body to the family for his funeral on Monday, November 21 at 10.30am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, where friends and family please meet.

Donations, if so desired, to the British Heart Foundation, 2096 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3YU.

JONES
Hilda Margery

Hilda of Pontypridd Street, Barry, died peacefully after a long illness. Devoted and loving wife of the late Tom, much loved mother of Ken, Phil, Graham and the late Adrian. Mother-in-law to Maureen, Lyn and Fran. Devoted nan and grandmother to Ken, Gavin, Rhian, Catherine, Gemma, Sarah and Debbie, Sharon and Lesley and a loving great grandmother and great great grandmother.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until a Service of Remembrance at All Saints Church, Barry, on Friday, November 18, at 1pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only please. Donations to Ty Hafan, the Hospice for Children in Wales, may be made at the service or to A.G. Adams & Son.

JONES
Thomas Philip (Phil)

Phil of Pontypridd Street, Barry, died unexpectedly at home. Loving son of Hilda and the late Tom and much loved brother of Ken, Graham and the late Adrian. Brother-in-law to Maureen, Lyn and Fran and uncle to Ken, Gavin, Rhian, Catherine, Gemma, Sarah and Debbie, Sharon and Lesley.

A celebration of his life, followed by cremation, will take place on Friday, November 18 at 3pm, at Barry Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations to the Injured Jockeys Fund may be made at the service or to A.G. Adams & Son.

WALLIS
Margaret

Peacefully on Friday, November 4, Margaret, much loved wife of the late William, loving mother of Sian, Rhys, Gaynor and the late Keith. Adored grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St James Church, Wick on Friday, November 18 at 2pm, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major. Donations, if desired, to the Motor Neurone Disease, David Niven House, 10-15 Notre Dame Mews, Northampton, NN1 2BG.

WOODHAM
Alison Jane (AJ) (née Murray)

Peacefully on November 4 at Llandough Hospital, Alison Jane (AJ) of Cwm Talwg, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Jeff, a loved mother of Sophie and Jessica. Much loved daughter of Winifred and the late Mervyn, sister of Lynne.

AJ will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. Funeral service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, November 18 at 10.15am, where family and friends please meet. Black attire not requested, any colour may be worn. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research.

In Memory

EVANS
Gaynor Mary

1948 - 2014

God saw the road was getting rough,
A hill too hard to climb,
He gently closed her weary eyes
and whispered peace be thine.

From Neil, Gareth and Amy.

EVANS
Gaynor (née Stevens)

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Acknowledgements

DAVIES

Pete (of Exeter)

Elaine, Owen, Gareth and Alan would like to thank all those who attended Pete's funeral last week. Thanks too for all the letters, cards, telephone calls and messages of sympathy.

Thank you to Canon David Brunning for conducting such an uplifting service and to Thomas Brothers for their efficiency and kindness, and thank you to the staff at the Victoria Inn, Sigingstone for their hospitality following the service.

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Public Notice

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Gavin Price trading as **Gavin Price** of **19 Heol Ysgawen, Llanharry, Pontyclun, CF72 9GD** is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep **1** goods vehicle and **0** trailers at **Llanharan Concrete, Llanharry Road, Llanharan, CF72 9RN**.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Birthday's

Happy 80th Birthday Mum
Mary Phipps
(Née Lynch)
on 13th November.
All my love forever
Paul xxx

Lewis Thomas
Happy 18th Birthday
to our darling boy
on 11th November
All our love always from
Mum, Dad, Sam & Owen xxxx

Mary Phipps
Happy 80th Birthday Mam
13th November
Lots of love
Stephen, Bernadette, Ben and Abbie
xx

Look who's 18!
Lewis Thomas
How you've grown!

On 11th November
Love always
Nan, Bamps & Poppy
xxx

Barry Hospital opens a new support centre

Staff and volunteers with Jane Hutt AM at the opening of the Information Centre at Barry Hospital.

A NEW information and support centre was officially opened on November 3 at Barry Hospital, signposting health and wellbeing; local services; signposting for financial and legal advice and volunteering.

Jane Rowlands-Mellor, Lead Nurse for Patient Experience at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) said: "This is the third information and support centre that we have opened at the health board, and from feedback received, we are aware that this face-to-face contact has made a huge difference in enhancing the visitors' experience.

"We are encouraged by the number of people who visit the centres and just in the Macmillan Information and Support Centre at the University Hospital of Wales, we see more than 2,500 visitors each year.

Welsh Assembly cabinet member Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale of Glamorgan, said: "'It is wonderful to see such progress in developing the services provided at Barry Hospital and such valuable new support available for local people.

"There has already been such positive work done by staff and volunteers, and I am delighted that the centre is now officially open".

The centre is open for information between 8.30am – 3.30pm, Monday to Friday and members of the Patient Experience Team, Third Sector colleagues and health board volunteers are generally available between 9am - 12.00pm to provide assistance and support.

To find out more about Barry Information and Support Centre, visit: http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/barry-hospital-info-support-centre.

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Alan and Adam shine!

ALAN JOHNS, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, was in cracking form at Lingfield Park on Tuesday.

The 3lb claiming jockey landed a double for his boss which was initiated when Galros Lady the 11-10 favourite came home a six lengths winner of the Ryan Vehicles Handicap Chase.

About 90 minutes later, riding 5-4 favourite TheLigny in the Weatherbys Hamilton Handicap Hurdle, Alan got his mount home by a length from the bottom weighted Laughane. TheLigny was winning for the third time on the bounce.

ADAM'S SEDGEFIELD SUCCESS

At Sedgefield, Llancarfan's Evan Williams' five-year-old brown gelding, Prime Venture, won the opening British Stallion Studs EBF National Hunt Novices Hurdle, finishing three lengths in front of Ca Le Ferra.

Prime Venture was partnered by Adam Wedge, and was returned at odds of 5-2.

BRIAN LEE

Rotary put their stamp on Christmas

***"Christmas is coming"* says the old song and it's certainly one of the busiest times of the year for the Rotary Club of Porthcawl.**

Just around the corner is the start of the Rotary Post: stamps costing only 25p can be bought from these retail outlets in Porthcawl, and Christmas cards can also be posted at the following stores:

Jane's Forget-Me-Not, John Street; Walters Shoe Shop, John Street; DH Edwards & Son (Television), Well Street; Stationery Hill, Station Hill; Lifestyle Express, New Road; Spar, Newton Village; Parc Stores, Cilparc; Nottage Stores, Nottage Village; General Stores, The Precinct, Rest Bay.

Rotary 'Posties' will collect and deliver to any address in the CF36 area. Stamps can be bought from November 14 and the last date for posting cards is December 12.

Also, the Porthcawl club will be holding the Christmas tree festival in conjunction with All Saints' Church between November 28 and December 5.

The festival has been growing in popularity each year, with its magnificent, colourful display of Christmas trees decorated to reflect each organisation, school etc that takes part. There will be a programme of entertainment running right through the week.

Some spaces are still available, so if your organisation would like to take part contact Rotarian Robert Snell for more details. His email address is dawnandrobert@hotmail.com, or telephone 01656 – 771623.

After that will be the Rotary Carolcade – the routes and nights will be announced in a few weeks. Christmas may be coming but, unlike the geese, the Rotarians have too much to do to be getting fat!

IVOR WILLIAMS

FESTIVE LUNCH

THE guest speaker at this year's Bridgend Business Forum Christmas lunch at the Coed y Mwstwr Hotel on Friday, December 16 will be Canadian comedian, Sean Collins.

Full details at business@bridgend.gov.uk.

The view from the victors... as Vale defeat Saints

IN what was the stand-out tie of the round, Vale United left St Athan having booked their place in the semi-finals of the Barry Cup, with a deserved 3-1 victory.

The away team resisted the temptation to tinker with their team and fielded the same starting 11 that had impressively dispatched Penarth the previous week, with captain Richard Evans retaining his midfield berth ahead of Matt Hobbs.

The front three, once again, consisted of Gregory, Ryan Jenkins and the flying Scotsman, Jay Tominey, who was looking to continue his impressive scoring form of 11 in four games.

The game started in hectic fashion, with Vale conceding an early corner from which the home side went ahead in bizarre fashion, the wind-assisted set-piece flying straight into the visitors' goal to give the home side an early lead, which they surely hoped they could build on.

This wasn't the first time Vale had conceded an early goal this season and they had gone on to win in all the previous games this has happened, so there was certainly no need to press the panic button.

United stuck to their game plan and were looking to showcase some of the football which has seen them win 11 out of 11 games in all competitions this season and it wasn't long before they got back into the game through skipper Evans' penalty kick.

The award of the penalty came after a superb switch of play by Tominey picked out rangy winger Gregory, who was upended just inside the box with the goal at his mercy.

The referee had no option but to award the penalty, which Evans confidently slotted home for his fifth goal of the season, all from the 12 yard mark.

Vale continued to dominate possession and really should have gone ahead, with midfield duo Dan Hanson and Phil Caseley both culpable of missing gilt-edged chances, while Tominey also skewed wide after rounding the keeper.

The away team were nearly made to pay for their profligacy in front of goal as the Saints, who always looked dangerous on the counter, took advantage of some hesitancy from a throw-in to send their number 9 through one-on-one with keeper Gerwyn Teague, who thwarted the diminutive forward with a fine one-on-one save.

Minutes later, it was the home sides turn to live dangerously, as a thunderous header from buccaneering centre-back Joe Williams was magnificently palmed away by the home goalkeeper, the latest in a string of fine saves from the young number one.

As half time approached, the game simmered down as both teams sought a chance to catch their breath after an incident packed first half.

The home side were the quickest out of the blocks at the start of the half, again catching Vale on the break, with their tricky left winger sent through one-on-one with Teague, who again repelled the effort and was quickly back on his feet to turn away another effort from the same player.

However, United soon went 1-2 ahead and the scorer came as no surprise, Tominey wheeling away in celebration after nudging the visitors in front following a goalmouth scramble.

This jolted United into life and they looked to extend their advantage within a matter of minutes, Jenkins seeing a long-range effort pushed away by the home goalkeeper.

After soaking up a period of sustained pressure, St Athan once again broke quickly and carved out yet another one-on-one chance.

The keeper was soundly beaten this time but the striker saw the ball strike the upright before bouncing into the path of an onrushing team-mate - however, the home team and crowd, in particular, didn't envisage Vale's left back, James Davies, heroically throwing himself in front of the ball, not once but twice, to somehow keep the score at 1-2.

It was as good as a goal and the away fans celebrated as if they had just scored and minutes later, they did, Tominey grabbing his second of the game with a deft finish to put the away side in cruise control at 1-3 and knock the stuffing out of the hosts once and for all.

For all the passion and honest endeavour shown throughout the game, the game ended on a sour note, with St Athan centre back, Nicky Cox, who had endured a torrid afternoon against the impressive Vale front three, dismissed for a tackle on Tominey.

The referee did well to produce the card so quick and diffuse the situation, with the incident threatening to spill over and spoil a hard-fought game. With just minutes left, the dismissal extinguished any hopes of a possible late fightback and Vale saw out the game comfortably to progress to the semi-finals.

GT

The St Athan vets celebrate successes

EVERY year the St Athan Golf Club veteran section has an autumn festival on the first Wednesday of October, when all the trophies are presented to the winners of competitions played during the year.

On Wednesday, October 5, a nine hole competition was played by 53 members of the section and the winners were as follows:

Terry Williams Trophy for the best medal net won by Mike Hurry, The Harry Kenyon Trophy for best medal net for over 68-years-old was won by Derek Williams.

The Dave Thompson Trophy Best Medal Gross was won by Gary James and The Emrys Jenkins Trophy was won by Bill Wake.

From the competitions played during the year, the winners were as follows:

Winter Eclectic, Eric Hallett; The Alec Beattie by Jim Hawkins; The Tom Thomas for the pairs foursomes by Derek Williams and Peter Purnell; The Sunderland Trophy and the Ken Butler Cup were won by Roger Davidge, who was unable to attend due other commitments.

All the trophies and cups were presented by the veterans captain Bill Craythorne, who congratulated all winners.

Leanne, our caterer, put on a great lunch of three different choices and was enjoyed by all, along with some liquid refreshment.

Our course was in an excellent condition on the day and the green staff are to be congatulated. For more information, please contact our club manager Anita McKinstry on 01446 751043 or take look on our website - www.rafstathangc.co.uk.

ID

SLOW START COSTS COWBRIDGE RFC UNDER-14S RESULT

BRECON under-14s turned up with just 12 players, so three of the home team substitutes of Cowbridge RFC joined them for this match.

Within two minutes of kick off, the home side were 7-0 down, within 10 minutes the score was 19-0! The home side were given some stern 'words of advice' from the perplexed coaches and then the recovery started in earnest.

The ball passed through just about all of the team before Lucas Reid touched down in the corner, and shortly after, Luke Gregory at centre scored a good individual try from some hard running lines.

From the kick off Cowbridge scored again with a well worked try from Jacob Thiesen, after a good loop and pass from centre Charlies Locke.

Brecon then scored another length of the field try through their excellent, strong running centre, with Cowbridge quickly responding with wing Morgan Thomas in at the corner.

The game was nip and tuck, until James Gilvear (of Cowbridge) scored a well taken try under the posts which Brecon then converted.

With 10 minutes to go, Cowbridge threw everything into attack with powerful running from Will Clarke who, along with David Harris, powered through the hard yards, to put the home side in front of the posts.

Then Dave Harris at No. 8 burst through to score at close range. The conversion followed and shortly after Kofi Jones had a fine attacking run, scoring a super try from full back.

Staunch defence by Brecon prevented Cowbridge from completing their surprise come-back, and ran out winners, 40-34 (with a little help from the home team substitutes!).

It was an exciting and good spirited encounter, with tries aplenty, but the slow start by the home side proved too costly in the end.

TD

Evan's horse in dead heat

COPPER BIRCH, trained at Llancarfan by Evan Williams, and ridden by Adam Wedge, dead-heated with the top weighted Globalisation partnered by Jonathan Moore in the Llewellyn Humphries Handicap Chase over three miles at Ffos Las on Sunday.

Course and distance winner Copper Birch, who was racing for the first time in 208 days, was returned at odds of 3-1 and Globalisation went off the 13-8 favourite.

West Wales trainer Debra Hamer, who hails from the Vale, landed the Countryside Alliance Handicap Hurdle with 12-1 chance ToBeFair a winner of its previous three races but who was racing for the first time in 403 days and was ridden by Trevor Whelan.

Ebbw Vale's Dai Burchell had a rare double when winning the opening Rob Davies Chemists' Hurdle with the consistent Furiously Fast and the Countryside Alliance Handicap Hurdle with Guanciale who came home seven lengths ahead of Tim Vaughan's recent winner Lake Chapala.

Guanciale was ridden by former Welsh champion point-to-point rider Jodie Hughes from Pembrokeshire.

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge RFC take in rugby, wine and fireworks!

DESPITE no rugby since October 22, it's been a busy time at Cowbridge RFC.

Last Friday was the annual firework display and it was agreed that it was the best display ever. Despite a fall in attendance over previous years it was an excellent evening.

Thanks to everyone who attended and all those who helped organise the evening - special mention to our pyrotechnicians Alun John and David Griffiths.

A lot of hard work and expense goes into making the evening a success, hopefully all those who viewed from the Bear Field pitch appreciate that.

At last a game of rugby this Saturday. With just five league games played so far this season, the firsts travel to Old Penarthians.

As Wales are playing Argentina at 5.30pm the kick off is scheduled for 1.30pm. There's no game the following Saturday, then we face Tonyrefail at home on November 26, Caerau Ely away on December 3 and the final game of 2016 is Llantwit Major away on December 17.

The youth have a cup game at home this Saturday against Pentyrch; kick-off is to be confirmed but is likely to be 1pm.

A reminder to the bon vivants at the club, the annual Beaujolais tasting will take place on Thursday, November 17. Accompanying the wine will be a selection of cheeses, breads and pickles; a votre sante.

RV/RK

Ath revise kick-off times

DURING the autumn internationals, Bridgend Athletic have brought forward their next two fixture kick-off times.

On November 12, away to league leaders Aberavon Quinn, the kick-off time is now 12.30pm, and on November 26, at home at Newbridge Fields in the local derby against Maesteg, the kick-off time is now 12 noon.

AB

Llantwit Major RFC prepare for St Albans trip

WITH no rugby last weekend due to the Wales v Australia game, this Saturday sees Llantwit Major RFC return to action in the league as they travel to Cardiff to take on bottom side St Albans RFC.

The Llantonians will be hoping they can take their recent impressive home form onto the road as they look for their first away win of the season.

Last week saw the draw for the fourth round of the National Bowl taking place with Llantwit given a tough away fixture to Monmouth RFC who play in a division higher than them in the corresponding eastern league.

The tie is due to be played on Saturday, December 10, with the club running a supporters bus to the game - members and non-members are welcome to attend. Details of travel will be made closer to the fixture.

AH

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

SIMON ON TARGET AS HE PASSES LICENCE!

Simon Miskin.

AFTER 10 months of rigorous study, involving written and practical work, mentored coaching, three residential training weekends and a final three hour assessment, Simon Miskin, head coach at Caerau Dragon Bowmen Target Archery Club, has gained his Level 2 Licence and Coaching Award from Archery GB, the national governing body for Target Archery.

"All the hard work was worth it, not just the practical coaching of other archers, but researching the technical theory of shooting and learning about how muscle groups work together as well," said Simon.

The course covered archer profiling, anatomy, nutrition, physical and mental training in preparation for competition as well as equipment selection and maintenance. "We also completed a disability awareness practical session in which we attempted to experience shooting with a range of impairments," explained Simon.

"Shooting with blacked out or partially misted goggles, shooting using only one arm and drawing the bow string using neck muscles and teeth, and shooting from a seated position in a wheelchair, all gave insight and understanding into some of the problems encountered by disabled archers and how coaching plans can be adapted to be inclusive."

"The course was immense fun as well and as the 10 candidates were from a wide geographical area, we were able to swap ideas and share best practice. This achievement will now allow me to focus on intermediate archers in preparation for competition and further develop the potential of our junior club members."

Simon, who has been shooting for 12 years, is an active voluntary member of Caerau Dragon Bowmen and has been running indoor and outdoor beginners sessions for novices throughout the year as well as fitting in his course preparation.

"I would like to extend my thanks to all club members for their support during the past year, especially to Denise Davies for her mentoring sessions throughout the course, and to Tony who agreed to be coached by myself for the past 10 months and accompanied me to the final assessment session in Bristol; Tony's technique has improved greatly - along with his scores!"

The club is also grateful for contributions towards funding the course from the Vale of Glamorgan's Community Chest Scheme, the Sports Council for Wales, and the Cardiff & Vale Scouts.

The Caerau Dragons are a target archery club based at St. Richard Gwyn RC High School in Barry. New archers are always welcome and archers from other clubs can shoot on production of their AGB membership card.

The club also offers coaching and development 'clinics' for intermediate archers, and the next of these is on Sunday, November 27 - contact Denise Davies on 02920 484509 (evenings) for full details, booking essential.

SM

Under-11s in a round-robin

THIS week Cowbridge under-11s travelled to St Peters RFC in Cardiff for a round-robin event against the hosts and Old Penarthians RFC.

Cowbridge had decided to take the Tigers to this event earlier in the season. First up against the Tigers were Old Pens who dominated the encounter from the kick-off.

The Tigers slipped to a 49-0 deficit with the forwards being punished at the breakdown area and little opportunity for the backs to develop their running game. With the last play of the game, a quick turnover ball from Joe Arentsen eventually fell to Will Brennan who then weaved a full length run from his own line to go over and score for the Tigers, Sam Sheppard converted to take it to 49-7 at the whistle.

The second game against St Peters was a tighter affair. The team demonstrated much-improved running, tackling and clearing out at the breakdown. Osian Bruce ran in two tries, powering through from midfield, added to by Josh Canning, also running freely with the ball worked well through the hands.

With Sam Sheppard converting all three, the final score was 26-21 to St Peters. The team developed well over the course of the morning and again the squad is reaping the benefits of the opportunities presented by the coaching team, securing enough rugby for the 30-plus players each week - keep it up boys.

DH

Penllyne Bridge Club October results

THURSDAY, October 6 (18 pairs):

1st John Lord & Jo Ilsley 58.81%, 2nd Ireen & Richard Daniels 58.24%, joint 3rd Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook and John Hunter & Viv Roberts.

Thursday, October 13 (18 pairs): 1st John Hunter & Cath Domican 67.61%, 2nd Judith & Colin Nunn 62.22%, 3rd Phil & Lou Edwards 57.95%.

Thursday, October 20 (17 pairs): 1st Rita Williams & Dot Williams 67.86%, 2nd David Stephenson & Mike Baron 65%, 3rd Phil & Lou Edwards 63.57%.

CN

Wolves gives Blacks blues!

THE young Dinas Powys Wolves didn't take long to get themselves in their stride on Saturday against Cowbridge Blacks.

Working hard at training on the movement from the attackers has been really important, and the hard work clearly showed with an abundance of fine goals.

Joe Doughty opened the scoring, firing home from 20 yards, before Bayely Harewood, Callum Hewitson, Zak Fifield, Cole Saunders and Conor O'Brien scored. Cowbridge pulled one back before the break with a fine attacking move down the left.

The second half turned into the Zak Fifield scoring show as he added another three. Further goals from Jake Lewis, birthday boy Jake Frost and Jacob Perria completed the scoring.

Kyle Booker and Rian Thomas were both having fine games as Callum Hewitson's movement allowed them and Harewood the space to drive into.

LS

Llantwit Major & District Darts League round-up

THE LMDDL winter league season entered its eight week with the highlights being:

Birthday boy Stephen Deakin 180, Dilwyn Evans 180, Allan Morgan 180, Peter Evans 120 out, Nick Smith 116 out, Mark Harvey 102 out, Nigel George 93 out, Dai Randall 15 darter, Ray Procco 18 darter, Jeff Price 19 darter, Dai Sawyer 21 dart leg.

Monday 'C' League results: Tudor Tavern 'C2' 10, Kings Head 'C1' 1; Rugby Club 3, Lamb & Flag 'C1' 8; Lamb & Flag 'C2' 7, Boverton Castle 4; Wenvoe Arms 11, Tudor Tavern 'C1' 0; Kings Head 'C2' 2, Shoes St Athan 9.

Tuesday 'A' League results: Rugby Club 'A3' 4, Lamb & Flag 7; Rugby Club 'A2' 5, Tudor Tavern 6; Golden Cups 6, Four Bells 5; Fox & Hounds 4, Shoes Peterston 7; Wenvoe Arms 7, Rugby Club 'A1' 4; Kings Head 'A1' 10, Blacksmiths 1; Shoes St Athan 6, Kings Head 'A2' 5.

DMC

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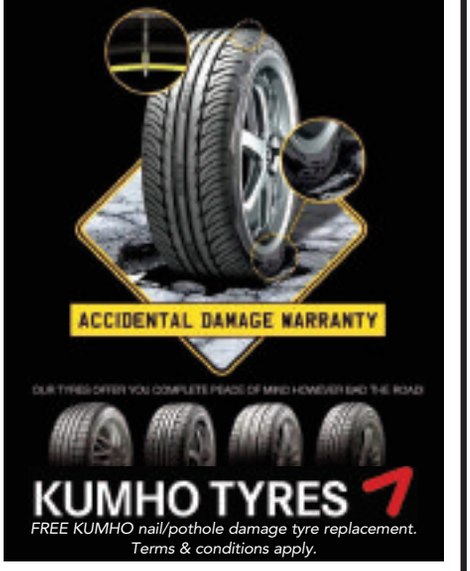

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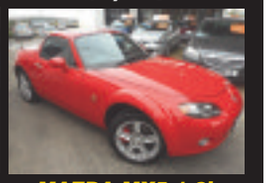

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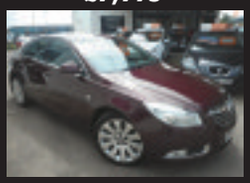

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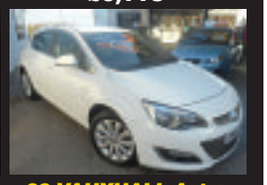

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60 **SEAT Leon 1.2 TSi 'S' 5-Dr** In black, 43,000 miles. Good looking car **£5,995**

10 **VAUXHALL Zafira 1.7 CDTi Exclusive** In dark metalic grey, 41,000 miles, diesel 7-seater **£5,995**

59 **MINI Cooper 1.6 Convertible** In pure silver, 68,000 miles .... **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995**

09 **VOLVO C30 R-Design SE 2.0 Diesel Automatic** In black, 71,000 miles **£5,995**

08 **SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.9 Diesel DDiS 5-Dr** In met sand, 53,000 miles, 4x4 at **£5,995**

60 **TOYOTA Auris 1.3 TR 5-Dr** In met red, 40,000 miles, family hatch **£5,695**

14 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Excite Ecoflex 5-Dr** In red, 34,000 miles, £30 road tax **£5,495**

61 **RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic** In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav **£5,495**

11 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Auto Exclusive 5-Dr** In silver, 51,000 miles **£5,495**

10 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Edge Automatic 5-Dr** In mulbury metalic, 41,000 miles **£5,495**

09 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3-Dr Automatic** In hot magenta, 53,000 miles **£5,495**

13 **CITROEN C1 Connexion 3-Dr 1.0** In met gun metal, only 10,000 miles, ultra modern car, free road tax .....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

11 **MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 3-Dr** In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout.....**£4,995**

60 **SKODA Fabia 1.2 TSi 1.5 SE 5-Dr** In met-silver birch, 48,000 miles, one owner **£4,995**

10 **RENAULT Megane 1.6 i-music VVTi 5-Dr** In met grey, 38,000 miles, very nice example at **£4,995**

10 **VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 S (60) 5-Dr** In silver, 45,000 miles, 2 owners.....**£4,995**

56 **SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.6 3-Dr** In black, 69,000 miles, 2 owners 4x4 at **£4,995**

03 **BMW Z4 3.0i 6-Speed** In met grey with black leather, 90,000 miles with sat nav **£4,695**

09 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style+ 5-Dr** In silver, 52,000 miles, low insurance **£4,495**

11 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Edge 3-Dr** In red, 83,000 miles with a/c etc..... **£3,995**

60 **PEUGEOT 207 HDi Millesim 5-Dr** In black, 73,000 mile diesel, £20 road tax **£3,995**

09 **FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-black, 69,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£3,995**

09 **SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr** In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance..... **£3,995**

58 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec (New Shape) 3-Dr** In black, very nice example at **£3,995**

09 **FORD Focus 2.0 TD 136 Zetec Automatic Estate** In met-blue, 102,000 miles, excellent condition..... **£3,695**

05 **MINI Cooper** In electric blue/black roof, 62,000 miles, nice example at **£3,695**

62 **SUZUKI Alto 1.0 SZ3 5-Dr** In silver, 60,000 miles, free road tax, low insurance **£3,495**

61 **CITROEN C1 1.0 VT 3-Dr** In white, 47,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,495**

10 **PEUGEOT 107 1.0 Urban 5-Dr** In silver, 34,000 miles, low insurance, £20 road tax **£3,495**

59 **CITROEN C3 1.4 VTR 5-Dr** In black, 54,000 miles, low insurance **£2,995**

08 **SKODA Fabia 2 HTP 70 1.2 5-Dr** In red, 65,000 miles, 1 owner **£2,995**

57 **FORD Fusion 1.4 Diesel Pursuit 5-Dr** In met blue, 44,000 miles with alloys, a/c etc..... **£2,995**

56 **FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Automatic** In silver, 34,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc **£2,995**

06 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 64,000 miles, a/c, alloys..... **£2,295**

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blackhorse

Vale United dump St Athan out of the Barry Cup

VALE United made it 11 wins out of 11 in all competitions as they dumped St Athan out of the Barry Cup.

United came out on top in the battle of the top two in the Vale league to advance to the semi-finals. A classic cup tie saw both sides go at each other ferociously in a cracker of a game but it was Richard Evans and Jay Tominey's double that sealed the win for Vale after Reece Lewis had opened the scoring for Saints.

St Athan lost Mark Drysdale and Joe Laing before kick off so it was returns to the starting line up for Nicky Cox and Josh Harfoot. Both sides came into the game full of confidence and on good winning runs but it was the home side who struck first; the supporters had barely shuffled in when Reece Lewis' corner eluded everyone and nestled in the far side of the net to give St Athan the lead.

Saints' set pieces were causing havoc and Lewis' delivery saw Jordan Mortimore head over minutes later. Vale looked to fire back and their number 10 latched on to defensive error but could only lift his shot inches wide of the goal.

United were level 10 minutes in as Saints gave the ball away in midfield, the switch caught the home defence cold and a tangle saw the Vale winger brought down for a penalty. Richard Evans stepped up and not for the first time this season made no mistake.

Saints regrouped and pushed to go back in front. James Austin saw a header off the line from a corner and then after a quick throw by Harfoot, Josh Morgan outpaced the Vale back line but the keeper denied the in-form forward with a fine save.

The game ebbed and flower and now it was Vale's turn to apply the pressure and they saw an effort chipped narrowly wide and then a strike from the edge of the area palmed away by Deon Garrison.

Saints saw a well-worked Reece Lewis effort saved but then Richie Humphreys hobbled off with a hamstring injury, a major blow for the home team.

United came at Saints to end the half and saw four good chances saved or off target; one in particular found the forward one on one with the keeper only to put the ball wide.

The second period saw Saints come out of the blocks quickly and Leigh Lewis fired wide. Karl Steel then turned on the pace to cruise down the flank. His cross was controlled by Leigh Lewis onto his right foot, but his looping effort was excellently saved.

It was Leigh Lewis at the centre of things again as he saw a header cleared off the line from a set piece.

Vale came back and saw a header well saved by Garrison as he palmed it onto the bar. United then had the ball in the net but saw it ruled out for offside.

Finally the breakthrough came - a Vale corner was half cleared, the resulting cross dropped invitingly for Tominey and the Vale striker saw his first effort blocked but managed to fire in the rebound from close range.

Then minutes later Saints' misery was compounded as a long ball forward was missed and Tominey raced onto it, and finished calmly to give Vale a two goal cushion. St Athan threw caution to the wind in an attempt to get back into it, and a formation change saw Phil Morgan introduced to the forward line.

Tremendous work from Josh Morgan saw him flash a ball across the goal, deflecting off a defender and falling agonisingly wide. Josh Morgan again carved open a chance but his low shot rebounded off the inside of the post then Phil Morgan saw the rebound superbly blocked.

Saints threw the kitchen sink at Vale and soon the feeling was that they could have played all night and the ball just would not go in, while Vale looked to pick Saints off on the break but couldn't convert.

Nicky Cox then saw red late on for a bad challenge and the final whistle arrived to confirm Saints' exit from the competition. An excellent cup tie between two very good sides, Vale now must be favourites for the cup.

St Athan: Garrison, Cox, Young, Mortimore, Humphreys, Ashton, Austin, R.Lewis, Harfoot, L.Lewis, J.Morgan. Substitutes: Steel, P.Morgan.

We'd like to thank those who came out to support us and our sponsors, Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Diving & Marine Engineering, Green Future Landscaping, Llantwit Valet & Car Wash and The Four Bells in St Athan.

Meanwhile in Wenvoe, St Athan B made it two wins on the bounce as they beat third place BVFC 4-1.

Josh Howells was the star of the show as the wide man scored a memorable hat trick, with Craig Howells adding a fine fourth. A very good result that sees the seconds climb to fifth in Division Two.

St Athan B: Stock, Richards, Robinson, Butcher, Cleave, Pickering, Campbell, George, J.Howells, Pugh, C.Howells. Substitutes: Burgess, Harry, Colwill, Wolfe.

HD

Jo takes on bowls role

ON Tuesday, October 18, the AGM of Glamorgan County Womens Bowling Association was held at the High Tide Conference Centre in Porthcawl.

There was a very good attendance with ladies from all the various clubs affiliated to the Glamorgan Ladies Bowling Association.

Mrs Ann Smith from Whitchurch Bowls Club was duly elected as president for the forthcoming season, and Miss Joanna Hopkins from Rhoose Bowls Club was elected as vice-president; this is the first time for a member of Rhoose Bowls Club to hold such an honoured position on the County Executive.

Jo has been a member of Rhoose Bowls Club from the day it opened in 1990 and has held the position of secretary for a number of years; she is also a qualified coach and umpire and so has a vast experience.

Many of the ladies from Rhoose Bowls Club were in attendance to support Jo, and to join her after at the lunch and presentation of prizes for the winners who took part in all the county competitions throughout the summer - well done to them.

A great day was had by all, and we look forward to supporting Jo throughout the coming year.

RC

Unbeaten start continues for Dinas ladies

DINAS Powys Ladies extended their unbeaten start to the season as they comfortably came out on top in the local derby against Barry Town Ladies.

Instructions were very simple - play on the front foot and play a high pressing game, not allowing the home side time and space to settle. Taylor Page opened the scoring with a cross-cum-shot from the left which eluded everyone and sailed into the goal in the first five minutes.

Dinas were very much on top and Barry were struggling to make inroads. Little Nao Yamanda was finding plenty of space and she curled an unstoppable strike from the edge of the box to double the lead.

As the half carried on the Barry forwards found the Dinas defence in no mood to give them any space, as Rachel Beare, Leanne Pattermore, Alex Allen and Kelly Tuck marshalled and organised themselves very well.

Molly Chapman was a constant thorn in the home team's side with her tireless running and her ability to make something out of nothing resulting in a free kick roughly 25 yards out.

Skipper Leanne Pattermore didn't need a second invitation to fire it home to give the visitors a 3-0 lead at the break.

The Villagers introduced fresh legs in the second period but still offered enough pace to scare any teams with their attacking style.

Gemma Crowley and Laura Murray managed to link the play up very well at times. Following a number of knocks the second half fizzled out as both teams struggled to work the keepers.

In the last play of the match the Dinas left back Catrin O'Connell bravely won a header resulting in a nasty broken nose. The club, coaches and girls wish Cat all the best as she has to have it reset in a week's time.

Also, hopefully the knee injury to Barry's midfielder, Gabrielle Elizabeth Cates, wasn't as bad as it first looked.

LS

Barry & District tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

League table: Liberals 61, Wyndham Cons 56, Moors Boys 51, Rhoose Social 49,

Cadoxton Cons 48, West End 48, West End Runaways 47.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

League table: King William XII 31, Rhoose Social B 31, West End D 29, West End C 26.5, Barries Boys 24, Allsorts 24, Rugby Club 23.5, Liberals C 23, Rhoose Social A 22.5, Rhoosters 22.5, Rhoose Social C 20.5, Sea View B 15, Slammers 14.5, Cambrian Flyers 11.5, Liberals A 10.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Rhoose Social C 2, Services Social B 3; Cadoxton Cons B 2, Wyndham Cons A 3; Penarth Cons A 2, Rhoose Social B 3; Penarth Cons B 2, West End C 3.

League table: Savoy A 33, Harbour B 29, Cadoxton Cons Z 24, Cadoxton Cons B 20, Rhoose Social B 19, Wyndham Cons A 19, Penarth Cons A 19, Rhoose Social C 15, Services Social B 15, West End C 14, Penarth Cons B 8.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Wyndham Cons C 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3; Savoy B 3, Liberators 2; West End B 3, Harbour A 2; Market Street C 4, Wyndham Cons D 1; West End A 2, Market Street B 3.

League table: Savoy B 26, Liberators 24, Wyndham Cons C 24, Harbour A 22, Market Street B 22, Market Street C 21, Cadoxton Cons A 19, Sully Sports A 17, West End A 17, West End B 16, Wyndham Cons D 12 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for November 1:

1st Mark Roderick & Peter Millar 71.88%; 2nd Irene Thomas & Jenny Vaughan 61.31%; 3rd Alan Jones & Lyn Matthews 57.14%. Mark Roderick and Peter Millar also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

Vale of Glamorgan Football round-up

IT was Barry Cup quarter-final weekend and there was a fine mix of a big game, a shock result and big scores as four teams progressed to the semi finals in March. There was also a reduced league schedule but nonetheless entertaining.

The Vale United juggernaut rolled on as they made it 12 out of 12 in all competitions by defeating their biggest test so far, nearest rivals St Athan, 3-1 in the big match of the day and must now be clear favourites for the cup.

Their old rivals Barry Belgrade pulled off somewhat of a cup upset to dump out Premier Division Cowbridge Town out of the cup, 4-1, while Island Marine cruised into the last four 5-0 against Cadoxton Barry. As of writing the Penarth Town and Rhoose result was still unknown.

In the Premier Division Barry Athletic got back to winning ways in some style with an 8-0 win over bottom side Masons Moving Group who are still searching for their first point. Dinas Powys Athletic got their first win after three league defeats with a morale-boosting 3-0 victory over Tynewydd.

In Division One, Cogan Coronation bounced back after last week's set back to romp home 5-1 against bottom of the league Glenbrook to go fifth.

Dockers and Cadoxton Athletic played out a thrilling 3-3 draw while SP Billy were victorious 5-3 against Sully. SP were the only team in the top four in action, the result keeps them fourth but they are four points off leaders FC Pumas with a game in hand.

In Division Two, league leaders Cadoxton Imps beat Barry Albion 2-0 to stretch their 100 per cent record to 11 games and go nine points clear of Barry Saints, who lost 4-2 to second bottom Rhoose B in a shock result. St Athan B made it two on the bounce as they put third place BVFC to the sword, 4-1, to go fifth.

This week there are no senior fixtures after the FAW postponed the games due to the national team playing Serbia in the evening.

The league returns on November 19 with a full league schedule with games of the day coming in Division One and Two.

Division One champions Cogan host league leaders FC Pumas and the top two on Division Two play each other as Cadoxton Imps face Barry Saints, a must-win for the latter.

HD

Cowbridge under-16s back to winning ways

COWBRIDGE under-16s got back to winning ways with a comprehensive away win at CRICC.

The squad performed extremely well with two forwards making their debuts in the back line due to a number of long term injuries to the regular backs. Andy Davies (hooker) stood in at the last minute to play on the wing, while Ben Jones (open-side flanker) stood in at inside centre.

Cowbridge started much brighter than their hosts. Unfortunately, from the kick off CRICC knocked the ball on, giving Cowbridge an attacking scrum just outside their opponent's 22.

With good clean ball the Cowbridge backs moved their larger CRICC opposite numbers from one side of the field to the other and back again. Harry Ridge finished off a well executed team try in the left hand corner.

Virtually straight from the restart, Cowbridge were back inside the CRICC 22. A clean line break by Jones was well supported by Ruben Williams, who was tackled just inside the CRICC 22.

Ioan Williams sniped right, and with a couple of simple passes, Andy Davies the hooker-cum-winger, went over in the far right hand corner.

CRICC responded well and put Cowbridge under an enormous amount of defensive pressure. For the rest of the first half Cowbridge were camped in their own 22.

With fearless defence and excellent discipline Cowbridge defended their line from wave after wave of CRICC attack. The half-time score was CRICC 0, Cowbridge 10.

After some strong words from the coaches at half-time, Cowbridge came out on the attack at the beginning of the second half and increased their lead 10 minutes into the second half with a simple but well-executed backs move. Iestyn Fenn stole another lineout from the CRICC team and delivered great turnover ball to Ioan Williams.

Williams fed Evan Thomas who with a simple dummy switch, followed by a great pass off his left, put Ridge in the clear just inside the CRICC 10 metre line.

Ridge showed great pace to make it to the corner without an opponents hand being laid on him. Ioan Williams converted the try from the right hand touchline.

Cowbridge's final try was a carbon copy of their third. Fenn stole another lineout, Thomas fired a great long pass off his left, missing out both his centres, this time putting Jack Dixon into space.

Dixon, nursing a thigh strain, showed great athleticism by side stepping his opposite number and making it to the corner. Unfortunately this time Williams was unable to make the conversion because he had a sore toe. The final score CRICC 0, Cowbridge 22.

GJ

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

THE Edmondes B beat Llanharry 5-4, but with the Six Bells Inn winning 7-2 at the Victoria Inn, their lead at the top of the table is now down to one point. These two teams are now opening up a small gap at the top.

Third-placed team the Highwayman Inn beat the Farmers Arms 6-3, but are now only one point above the Edmondes A after they won 9-0 against the Red Lion.

In this match, Trevor Morgan (Edmondes A) became the fifth player this season to hit a three-dart-out over 100. His 107 out was double 19, single 19 and the bull.

In the remaining match of the evening the Hairy Farmers defeated the Edmondes C 5-4. It was a good night of darts for Tim Lewis (Six Bells) at the Victoria Inn, going out twice on the bull and also achieving the highest out at the venue of 86.

Present league standings, after seven weeks, are: Edmondes B (44 points), Six Bells Inn (43), Highwayman Inn (39), Edmondes A (38), Llanharry (34), Farmers Arms and Edmondes C (30), Hairy Farmers (29), Victoria Inn (24) and Red Lion (4).

Next week (Tuesday, November 15) a full programme of league matches is scheduled.

The Edmondes B hosts the Edmondes A, the Hairy Farmers hosts the Victoria Inn, the Edmondes C hosts Llanharry, the Six Bells Inn hosts the Farmers Arms and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Red Lion.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

WALES 8 - AUSTRALIA 32

WOEFUL START TO AUTUMN TESTS, BUT...

THERE CAN BE NO REPEAT OF DISMAL SHOW AGAINST AUSTRALIA

Walloped by Wallabies, now Dragon must get fired up to avoid pummelling by Pumas

LEFT: Engulfed up front, where the men from Oz kept a stranglehold on proceedings; and RIGHT: defence ripped apart behind as gold shirts enjoyed the freedom of the park, it was a miserable afternoon for the men in red.

Pictures by Huw Evans Agency.

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

AFTER watching a strangely-lethargic Wales team steamrollered aside and lucky to concede only five tries in a one-sided Wallaby onslaught, at a subdued Principality Stadium on Saturday, stand-in head coach Robert Howley tried hard to put some gloss on what he admitted was a "*very disappointing, very frustrating display*."

If anything, it was something of an understatement, for it has been a while since such a listless Welsh team has been so comprehensively dismantled on home turf, with many spectators reviving gloomy memories of times past by heading for the exits long before the final whistle sounded.

Almost from the outset, a totally one-sided opening half saw far more dynamic opponents claiming over 80 per cent possession and territory – and they were all but out of sight (20-3) by the interval.

Oddly, the home coach insisted afterwards – "*It wasn't so much the speed and intensity*" – adding, *"It was just how good the Wallabies were with ball in hand, and how effective they were at the breakdown*."

Quite so! But it surely had more to do with dire Welsh shortcomings, both in defence and attack, that made the impressive men from Oz look like world beaters, rather than a team that had fallen well short in games of late, including the 3-0 test whitewash in their own backyard, at the hands of England; a cause for reflection by the Welsh camp with those two sides again set to lock horns later in the Australians' UK tour.

That result and Ireland's astounding 40-29 win over world champions, could well put Saturday's 8-32 defeat in Cardiff into even more sobering perspective.

Admitting that "*the boys were despondent coming in at half time*", Howley repeated an oft heard refrain – "*the more you play sides like this, the more you learn*".

There is obviously a great deal of truth in that statement, but in this professional age of rising admission/travel costs etc, even rugby's famously loyal, infinitely patient fans could hardly be blamed for questioning when a learning process will end for a team boasting upwards of 800 international caps!

Of the five to one try deficit against Australia, Howley said – "*defensively, we could have been better, particularly, structurally. I think we made a few wrong reads, and we were staying in the lane – but that was down to the speed of the ball…*"

It was certainly true of a bleak first half, with rampant Australians running free and offloading at pace against bemused defenders, who appeared leaden-footed and pedestrian in comparison.

True, things did markedly improve after the change-over, when the cavalry – in the shape of Welsh replacements, including an entire front row and fresh halfbacks – were sent onto the field and, as Howley observed, "*I thought we grew into the game in the second half, when the share of possession was 50-50".*

They also managed a well-worked try by Scott Williams, to add to returning Leigh Halfpenny's first half penalty; which in turn was in response to a penalty and three first half Oz tries, plus two more in the second half.

It gave some credence to the view that the team's below-par display was down to Wales' notorious tendency to start off slowly, then gradually improve in series competition – as has often been the case in previous autumn tests and the Six Nations.

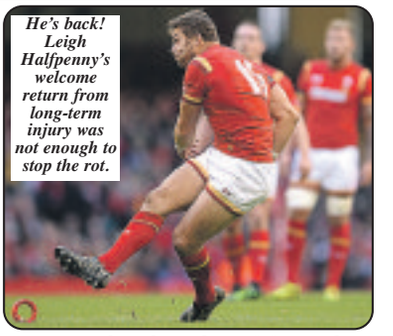
Let us hope this proves to be the case, for the games are only going to get tougher, with rapidly-developing Argentina next up in the Under Armour Series 2016 at the Principality Stadium on Saturday (kick-off 5.30pm).

Hardened in regular battle with the southern hemisphere giants, there will be no letting up in intensity by a team that are no longer noted only for formidable, but limited pack power (though they will no doubt be keen to put the Welsh eight to the test up front after Saturday's showing!)

Under the influence of the All Blacks *et al*, they are fast expanding their game and should also pose a serious threat to Welsh play out wide.

Just as was the case against Australia, on paper, this talented Welsh squad is well-equipped to meet the challenge – provided, of course, that there is not another painfully 'slow start' – for that will be even more ruthlessly punished by the predatory Pumas.

Realistically, a week is not a lot of time to put right so many things that went wrong against Wallabies, who were given free licence to roam the wide open spaces, as though on the training park.



He's back! Leigh Halfpenny's welcome return from long-term injury was not enough to stop the rot.

No-nonsense defence coach Shaun Edwards (who admitted to being outflanked by Oz attack coach Stephen Larkham), will no doubt have read players the riot act over the many missed tackles which contributed to a woeful team effort that produced one of the heaviest home defeats seen at the stadium for many a year.

Of most concern, though, was the sheer lack of urgency and enterprise shown by a team that, after all, had been together for a good two weeks beforehand.

It was all in sharp contrast to gutsy Ireland's all-action heroics in taking the game to 'invincible' All Blacks and imposing a remarkable 40-29 defeat on the world champions in Chicago at the weekend – a rare event that other teams can only dream about!

What greater incentive could there be for Wales, with an armoury every bit the equal of Ireland's, to shake off the torpor that seemed to engulf the entire team on Saturday, and get the autumn tests back on track with a more dynamic, winning display against Argentina?